THE TIMES

No 62,006 FRIDAY DECEMBER 7 1984 20p

Tomorrow

The right line
Tips for BT's novice investors who are considering selling for a quick profit

Village life
The historian who takes the lid off small-town French society

Well covered
The insurance you need for a steady income during illness

Red threat
Liverpool's hopes in the world club championship match against Argentina's Independiente

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr Grenville Paull of Sidcup, Kent and Mr Peter Brown of Pulborough, West Sussex, each receives £1,000. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Union threat to benefit payments

A claim for an extra £15 a week, backed by the threat of an all-out strike, which could halt all benefit payments has set the Civil and Public Services Association on a collision course with the Government Page 2

Curfew clamped on Colombo

The Sri Lankan Government declared a night curfew in Colombo and ordered troops to shoot trouble makers on sight to prevent a backlash by the capital's mainly Sinhalese inhabitants against the Tamil minority. Earlier report, page 6

BR 'in the pink'

British Rail is to decorate the inside of first class Inter City carriages pink as part of a package to make services more attractive and profitable Page 3

Euro-link cash

A £4.4 billion cross-Channel link between Britain and France could be funded by a British Telecom type flotation, according to Sir Nigel Broackes, new British chairman of the Anglo-French consortium Euroroute Page 19

Painter elected

Mr Roger de Grey, the painter, who was favoured to succeed Sir Hugh Casson as president of the Royal Academy, has had his election approved by the Queen Page 2

Air sale mooted

Shorts, the Belfast aircraft manufacturer, may ba a candidate for privatization, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Northern Ireland Secretary, announced in a Commons written reply.

Acid rebels

Tory MEPs are openly defying Mrs Thatcher by joining the attack on Britain's policy over acid rain. Page 5

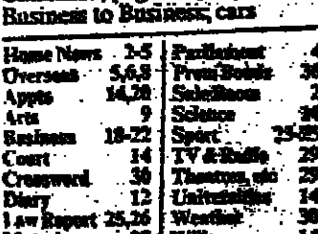
Commons break

The House of Commons will rise for the Christmas recess on Friday, December 21, and return on Wednesday, January 9, the Government announced yesterday.

Champion loses

Martina Navratilova was beaten in the Australian Open 1-6, 6-3, 7-5, by Helena Sukova, of Czechoslovakia, her first defeat in 75 games Page 23

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Thatcher says tax cuts are needed to tackle poverty

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday underlined the Government's commitment to cut taxation in next year's budget by raising thresholds to take more people out of paying income tax.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher responded to the growing expression of doubts on the Conservative back benches about the Government's tax-cutting strategy, doubts strengthened by the disputs over overseas aid and student grants, by emphasizing twice in the Commons that reductions in taxation were needed to tackle the poverty trap.

"There is a great need to lift taxation at the threshold to help those on comparatively low wages and to increase the gap between those on social security and those on earnings," she said.

Later, opening the debate on his autumn economic statement, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reaffirmed the likelihood of tax cuts worth £1,500 million in the budget. He, too, clearly laid the emphasis on raising thresholds.

Their restatement of a central tenet of the Government's economic strategy came as an increasing number of Conservative MPs have called on the Government to forget about tax cuts and use any surplus revenue on direct measures to stimulate employment. They did so again in yesterday's debate.

It came also as the all-party Treasury select committee, in a critical report published yesterday, questioned Mr Lawson's calculations that he would have room for tax cuts next year of the order of £1,500 million.

As the opposition parties sought to make the most of what they thought was her discomfiture over the education grants retreat, Mrs Thatcher had to make clear to one of her own backbenchers, Sir Kenneth Lewis, MP for Stamford and Spalding, that the additional money made available by the Treasury could not be seen as a prelude to relaxations elsewhere. "We have to take steps to contain public expenditure," she said.

She reacted angrily to Mr Neil Kinnock's charge that the Government had robbed science to save its own skin by defending its record of research funding and stating that the biggest expenditure cuts in the past 10 years had come under the Labour Government.

Mr Lawson said that the Government by having a firm grip on public spending, holding it broadly constant in real terms over a period of years, would have progressive scope for reductions in taxation not just for the few but for the many. That had been achieved by tax threshold increases well ahead of inflation and he hoped to continue to do so.

But the strength of the opposition to that objective on his own side was made swiftly plain to Mr Lawson by the support given to the interventions by Mr Peter Tapsell, Conservative MP for Lindsey East, who said that if he cut £1,500 million off taxes most of it would be spent on imports, whereas if he invested the same amount in selective capital projects he would be creating jobs.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow chancellor, accused the Government of having no policy to deal with unemployment. Conservative MPs had misjudged the mood of the country if they believed people preferred tax cuts to seeing something done about the jobless total, he said.

But it will be the continuing reservations on their own back benches that will be of most concern to ministers. Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing and the chairman of the Treasury select committtee, immediately voiced uncertainty over the Prime Minister's emphasis on raising tax thresholds. He said it would be a mistake to suppose that could be done on a sufficient scale to make a serious impact on the poverty trap.

Mr Lawson said during the debate that the Government's policies were calculated to improve the prospects of jobs that could be sustained into the future. No party would deliberately foster an increase in unemployment, he said.

Comment, page 19

TUC sanctions strikes in support of miners

● The TUC gave the go-ahead for legally-risky industrial action in support of the pit strike over jobs, but decided against putting the labour movement at risk of contempt of court

● Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, left talks at Congress House claiming a "very successful and productive day"

● Mr Tony Benn urged the labour movement to prepare for a general strike of 24 hours or longer to protect free trade unionism.

● Mr Herbert Brewer, aged 67, wants to step down as receiver after failing over five days to secure money lodged in foreign banks Page 2

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The TUC gave the go ahead last night for legally-risky industrial action in support of the pit strike, but drew back from taking any steps to help the miners that would bring the wider labour movement into contempt of court.

After day-long talks with leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, the TUC's seven man liaison group appointed to monitor the progress of the 3-week strike called on all affiliated unions "to redouble efforts to take action that will bring the National Coal Board back to the negotiating table in order to settle the dispute."

The TUC body also agreed to support "all possible measure designed to enable the NUM to continue with its functions" but legal advice has ruled out direct financing of the NUM on the grounds that it could be seen as a challenge to the authority of the High Court-appointed receiver, thereby putting the entire labour movement into contempt.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the miners' union, left the talks at Congress House last night claiming a very successful and productive day. But the TUC should mobilize the force of the labour movement behind industrial action to back the coal strike, and pump money into the mineworkers' organization so that it could lease new offices in Sheffield and pay its way in defiance of the Hight Court receivership.

Senior sources within within TUC, however, indignantly denied that it was "an NGA style sellout" and pointed out that the TUC has effectively sanctioned strike action in support of the industrial objectives of the NUM in their long confrontation over pit closures.

Expert legal guidance tendered to the TUC evidently suggests that industrial action by unions sympathetic to the NUM will not be in contempt of the High Court provided it is mounted in support of the miners' objectives in halting pit closures and not in any way deliberately designed to thwart the activities of the receiver appointed to manage the finances and assets.

But the same counsel's advice argues that the TUC would find itself in the dock for contempt along with the NUM if it supplied money to the miners' union to rent offices, pay its staff and run the day to day operations of the 200,000 member union.

The liaison group agreed yesterday: to reiterate support for the NUM in line with Congress policy and to call on affiliates to redouble efforts to

Continued from page 1, col 1

Benn calls for general strike

By Julian Haviland and Anthony Bevins

Tony Benn called on the Labour movement yesterday to prepare urgently for a general strike, of 24 hours or longer to protect free trade unionism, political freedom and civil liberties in Britain.

Speaking at a rally in support of striking miners at St Ives, Cambridgeshire, he said no one would contemplate such action unless it became the only alternative to capitulating to a dictatorship. But the Government had mobilized the full apparatus of state power against working people, and there was no guarantee that the attacks would not intensify until the country had passed the point of no return, as in Germany and Italy before the last world war or more recently in Chile.

Mr Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield the longest serving member of Labour's national executive committee, said the Government must be told that the movement was serious. It might help to bring the Prime Minister to her senses.

Mr Benn said workers in great public industries and services were being "bought and sold by speculators as if they were slaves."

A general strike might prove the only way of reminding the Government "that their class allies, the bankers, industrialists, stockbrokers, judges, editors, chief constables and generals cannot dig coal, manufacture goods, move trains, care for the sick or teach the young".

Neil Kinnock earlier condemned the idea of a general strike at a meeting with Mr Scargill, when he said that such a move would be wounding and even terminally damaging to the campaign for coal.

The Labour leader believes most strongly that anyone with pretensions to a socialist perspective cannot possibly miss the point that a general strike would be a diversion from the central argument. He also believes that picket-line and other strikers' violence equally obstructs the case for coal because it provides a media diversion.

But when he put that point to Mr Scargill, Mr Peter Heathfield and Mr Mick McGahey, general secretary and vice-presidents at the Commons yesterday, he was met with blank silence.

Mrs Chalker launching the drink-driving slogan yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

'Stay low' anti-drink campaign attacked

The Government's Christmas campaign against drunken drivers ran into a mixed reception when it was launched yesterday. There were claims that it encouraged drinking.

The campaign, aimed specifically at teenagers, uses the slogan: "Stay low or you might live to regret it."

The British Medical Association and the Automobile Association said that they preferred the all-embracing advice that drivers should not touch alcohol at all.

Scottish police forces have also criticized the new campaign, saying that its slogan invited drivers to have a drink.

The Minister of State for Transport, Mrs Lynda Chalker, who launched the campaign, defended the theme as realistic and sensible.

"The message has got to be believable. You can't preach at young people or be authoritarian about this. I hope the campaign will be an effective new initiative in dealing with one of the biggest menaces on the roads."

Mrs Chalker added: "Of course, the only safe message is to have zero drink if you drive. We are trying to be realistic. We are not saying prohibition, that's not the law. What we are doing is educating people to think."

The BMA said: "The latest campaign shows someone putting their hand on a pint glass as if it had already been full once.

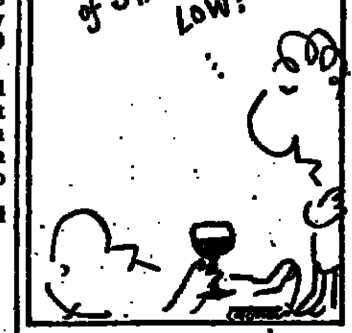
"It is really suggesting that you can have a few, and it is dangerous for young people, who may not be used to alcohol or to driving."

The AA was equally firm: "If you are going to drive don't drink, and if you are going to drink don't drive.

"We accept what Lynda Chalker meant when she said you cannot lecture young people because they will immediately reject it. But at the end of the day you would't expect us to say anthing other than 'don't drink and drive.' "

The £1.15 million campaign uses three posters, showing young people crippled in road accidents caused by drink-driving. One, "Steve's Saturday on the terrace", shows a young man in a wheelchair on the steps of a nursing home.

Mrs Chalker said: "I have had sight of these posters for a long time – and I still shudder when I look at them."

Negligence case is filed against Union Carbide

By Our Foreign Staff

The government of the state of Madhya Pradesh yesterday filed a case of criminal negligence against the local subsidiary of Union Carbide, owners of the pesticide factory where more than 2,000 people have died after Monday's leak of poisonous gas.

Members of the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation siezed factory records and told officials not to leave. Soon after the leak, it was learned yesterday, police arrested five officials at the plant responsible for maintenance of the gas tanks.

Under Indian law, police in the state capital of Bhopal, where the tragedy occured, will investigate before deciding whether to prosecute.

Police refused to allow Mr Warren Woomer, an American executive of the company, and an investigative team, to enter the factory yesterday, and placed a guard on the badly-gassed Mr Shakeel Ahmed, the only employee in the plant when the gas leaked from a 45-ton underground storage tank at midnight.

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Taxpayer bales out 'insolvent' oil giant

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The British National Oil Corporation, the state-owned oil trading company, is technically insolvent and is being kept going only by £45 million of taxpayers' money, the Commons Energy Committee was told yesterday.

The reason is that Britain tried in vain to keep world oil prices high and maintain its earnings. But day-to-day dealings have brought down the price substantially.

The result is that BNOC has had to sell more than one third of its daily oil purchases from the North Sea at less than the price it paid in buying from the oil producers under three-month contract.

BNOC is now looking at new ways of buying and selling the 51 per cent of North Sea oil output or 1.3 million barrels that it handles each day.

Since the summer, half of BNOC's term contract customers, who between them bought 400,000 barrels of North Sea crude a day, have switched to buying on the spot markets.

The Department of Energy yesterday told the all-party select committee that on September 19 it gave BNOC an assurance that the Government would cover its losses.

However, the department said yesterday that since Parliament was in recess at the time it was not possible to give the customary 14 days notice.

The department told select committee: "It would not have been right to give the assurance until it became certain that the corporation would not be able to meet its losses from its own resources; but once that position was reached it was necessary to give the assurance quickly so that the corporation remained in a position to meet its commitments as they arose."

Mr Ian Goskirk, the BNOC chief executive, told the committee that increased reliance by the oil industry on the spot markets was leading BNOC to review its system of buying and selling on three-month term contracts.

He said that BNOC had kept its price structure intact in July this year in an attempt to follow Opec moves to stabilize prices.

The decision then to keep the BNOC price at $30 a barrel led to many of the corporation's customers moving to the spot markets where prices were then marginally lower. The gap widened to almost $2 a barrel and now stands at $28.65 for the BNOC contract price and $27.60 on the Rotterdam spot market.

Under participation agreements with the oil companies 500,000 barrels a day are bought by BNOC and immediately sold back to the companies. The remaining 800,000 barrels were previoulsy sold on contract, but now half is being sold at a loss on the spot market.

Hijackers 'murder four hostages'

Tehran Reuter, AP) – The hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner killed at least four of their hostages at Tehran airport yesterday, according to officials and witnesses.

The Iranian news agency, Irna, said one passenger, fled on to the gangway stairs outside the plane before the hijackers killed him with six shots, was a US consular employee in Pakistan.

The State Department in Washington said earlier that a passenger killed on Tuesday, the first day of the hijack, might have been one of three US officials on board the plane.

Irna described how the consular employee was shot yesterday.

"At 3.50pm local time (1220gmt), the hijackers brought out two passengers of the plane to the staircase of the aircraft and started counting down, threatening to kill them.

"One of the passengers requested a loudspeaker and pleaded with Kuwaiti officials to meet the demands of the hijackers. Otherwise, he said, the hijackers would kill him.

"The American passenger (the US consular employee), speaking through the loudspeaker, said: 'Tell the Kuwaiti authorities to provide the hijackers with a pilot and co-pilot because they are serious about their threats' . . .

About 10 minutes later, the agency said, "the hijackers then killed the American passenger by firing six bullets."

The hijackers also threatened to blow up the plane if, according to Irna, "Kuwaiti officials did not free their friends".

The Iranian agency hassaid the hijackers are seeking the release of a number of men jailed or sentenced to death in Kuwait for bombing the US and French embassies and other buildings a year ago.

The hijackers have demanded a fresh pilot and co-pilot, apparently so they can fly out of Tehran. One of the pilots on board the plane is a Briton, Harry Clark.

Law of the Sea treaty denied UK signature

Britain has finally decided to follow the United States and West Germany in refusing to sign the UN convention on the Law of the Sea (Henry Stanhope writes).

But, like the West Germans, it will not oppose signature by the European Community as a body.

Britain had hoped for improvements to the provisions on seabed mining but none has been forthcoming.

So far 138 countries have signed but only 14 have ratified. It could be 10 years before the rest do.

Kanak's fight goes on, says man in Jaws shirt

From Alan Hamilton
Noumea, New Caledonia

Nine people have been killed and three seriously injured in a night ambush at the remote New Caledonia village of Hienghene, 300 miles form the capital. All were Melanesians, members of the Kanak community. They were returning in two cars from a meeting when they were stopped by Europeans at a roadblock. Dynamite was thrown into one car and the men were shot as they tried to escape. Two of the dead were brothers of M Jean-Pierre Tjibaou, Page 6

It had been an idyllic drive. The mountain road snaked up from the hibiscus-heavy plain, through lush tropical forest and alongside green patches where silky brown cattle ruminated in the midday sun. Far below were the torpid tourists on the white sand, while the energetic boated on the clear green water of the lagoon.

when Captain Cook named it New Caledonia in 1774, he had either never been to Scotland, or it was raining that day.

The first sign of trouble was a roadside tree whose overhanging boughs had been newly and savagely hacked, but had stubbornly refused to fall. Half a mile further on, a felled tree blocked threequarters of the road. Edging past, its crisp, dead leaves yielded up a delicious scent of sandalwood.

Then another tree to squeeze past on the edge of a ravine, then rocks large and small scattered on the tarmac and finally, round the next bend, a wall of earth felled trees and rocks. Breaching it would have required earth-moving machinery or heavy armour.

There was solitude and silence, but only for a moment.

From within a thicket there sprang a large Kanak, woolly bearded and wearing a T-shirt depicting the cinema's most famous shark.

He was immediately followed by a dozen others, wearing nothing but shorts and the occasional gaudy shirt of the kind tourists bring back from Hawaii. None appeared to be carrying firearms, but Jaws carried a 2ft long wooden club and one of his henchmen wielded a rusty machete of equal size. None of them looked happy.

Looking into the bushes whence they had sprung, a well-hidden yellow bulldozer was visible, bearing the name of a local French building contractor. Was there, one thought fleetingly, a cooking pot in there as well?

They crowded menacingly around the car, opened the boot and searched every glove pocket and under every seat. The smell of secondhand drink hung heavy in the air.

Jaws requested my passport; it was not a good moment to refuse. Just then another car drove up the valley, saw from a distance what was afoot, spun round in a cloud of red dust and raced back down the hill at top speed.

I asked Jaws who he and his friends were. "*Independentistes*" he replied, adding that they had manned the barricade for a fortnight and had cut off the village of Thio.

He and his men were under M Eloi Machoro, Minister of Security in the new and as yet unrecognized independent government, which is now almost a week old. M Machoro gained international fame during last month's local elections when he was photographed taking an axe to a ballot box.

"The very man I have come to see," I said in passable French. "I have here a *laissez passer* from him allowing him to pass all the Kanak's roadblocks." "Bon," said Jaws, then pointed out with irrefutable logic that a small piece of

Continued on back page, col 6

All-out stoppage threat to benefits as servants press pay claim

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Britain's largest Civil Service union last night set course for a pay confrontation with the Government by agreeing a claim for an extra £15 a week. The claim is backed up by the threat of an all-out strike which could hit unemployment and social security benefits.

Pay negotiations in the Civil Service are not due to start until early next year and the left-wing leadership of the Civil and Public Services Association is likely to be isolated, as other more moderate unions are planning a joint claim without any immediate threat of action.

The CPSA strategy was drawn up at a special delegate conference in London yesterday. The conference approved a suggestion from the executive that no exception should be made if there industrial action, a new policy that runs contrary to the present situation where the union guarantees emergency payments of social benefits.

Mr Alistair Graham, the moderate general secretary of the union, told delegates: "The time is right for the members to show their discontent. I detect even the Government are showing the slightest bit of embarrassment at the gap between pay increases in the public service and the rest of the economy."

He argued that since 1980 a typical clerical worker in private industry had received pay rises of between £30 and £35 a week compared with between £15 and £23 during the same period for Civil Service clerical staff.

"The time for restraint is over. We have to stir the membership into revolt", he said, but added that the union would have to comply with the Government's new Trade Union Act and hold a membership ballot before calling the strike.

The hard-line strategy won overwhelming backing from the Delegate conference with only a small amount of resistance from moderates working in the Ministry of Defence.

● Senior officials of the union are expected to deliver an ultimatum to leader of 400 strikers at the Department of Health and Social Security's main computer centre at Newcastle upon Tyne, that if they do not return to work their strike pay will be ended by the union.

The decision to take a firm line to end the strike was taken by the CPSA executive, which also decided that it would under no circumstances encourage members working at computer centres at Livingston in Scotland and at Reading, Berkshire, who process unemployment benefits to come out on strike in support of the DHSS workers.

The executive decision angered a special delegate conference of DHSS members in London yesterday who called for it to be reversed. They have been on strike for nine months in a dispute over a reduction in shift payments.

Road traffic forecast to rise by 25-30%

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Road traffic in Britain is expected to grow faster to the year 2000 than was thought when official forecasts were last made four years ago. The Department of Transport's new National Road Traffic Forecasts, replacing those issued in July 1980, predict traffic rises of 25-50 per cent, or between 40,000 and 140,000 million vehicle kilometres, compared with 150,000 during the past years.

HOW TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO GROW (1982=100)

	Cars	Light vans	Lorries under 25 tonnes	Lorries over 25 tonnes	Buses and coaches	All
1990	116-129	107-113	96-103	106-114	100	114-126
2000	126-154	115-135	91-105	118-136	100	123-149
2010	135-174	125-159	87-105	126-150	100	131-167



Aping the parade: Officer cadets and their instructors in playful mood yesterday before a rehearsal for today's Sovereign Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at which the Queen will be represented by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence (Photograph: David Osborn).

Two IRA men killed by Army

From Richard Ford
Belfast

An Army undercover squad yesterday shot dead two Provisional IRA terrorists who were thought to be on their way to murder a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The soldiers, in plain clothes, were hiding in the grounds of a psychiatric hospital near Londonderry awaiting the terrorists.

As the terrorists drove along a road in the grounds of Gransha Hospital on a motor cycle they were intercepted by the soldiers hiding near a nurses' home. Two separate bursts of gunfire were heard.

By the time police arrived, the soldiers had disappeared and the bodies lay on the ground covered by blankets.

The RUC said that two loaded handguns had been found near the bodies of Daniel Docherty, aged 23, a married man with a young son from the Creggan estate, and William Fleming, aged 19, single from the Gobnascale estate.

Both men came from Londonderry and according to a statement from the Provisional IRA were on "active service" when they died.

It is believed that the Army had intelligence reports that the two men were going to kill a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Tories dominate on GLC abolition body

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government has responded to pressure from the Opposition to allow one of the largest standing committees to be formed for the detailed scrutiny of the Local Government Bill, which abolishes the Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils.

But the Conservatives will have a healthy majority on the 47-member committee, with apparently few of its own backbench critics of the measure in its own ranks.

The Committee of Selection, reflecting the balance of the parties in the House, has chosend a committee of 29 Tory members, 15 Labour and three Alliance. The Tories include several ministers and parliamentary private secretaries.

Standing committees normally have about 18 members but the Labour Party, more than 100 of whose MPs are in the areas covered by the GLC and the metropolitan councils, pressed for more.

Last night they were welcoming the outcome, although Mr John Cunningham, Labour's chief environment spokesman, said it was exraordinary that in such a large committee Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Enviroment, who created the Bill, was not a member.

Machinists' strike at Ford made official

By Our Labour Reporter

Leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) yesterday declared official the three-week-old strike by machinists at Ford which has brought production to a standstill.

The decision of the union's executive means that the 270 strikers – 263 of them women – will now be paid £15 a week strike pay.

The move is likely to increase dissention among the 1( )00 production workers who have been laid off without pay because of the strike. The simmering row over the dispute among the other workers is likely to manifest itself next Wednesday when their joint negotiating committee meets.

Some 30,000 hourly paid employees are still working, but payment of their 9 per cent pay increase has been delayed until after Christmas.

Solicitor asks to give up post of NUM receiver

By Our Labour Correspondent

The Derbyshire solicitor who as a receiver of the funds of the National Union of Mineworkers has spent the past five days trying unsuccessfully to secure money lodged in foreign banks, told a high court yesterday that he wants to be relieved of the job.

Mr Herbert Brewer, aged 67, will step down in favour of a senior partner in a leading firm of City accountants if a judge rules today that the £8.9 million of NUM funds and assets should remain in receivership.

His decision to step down came after union allegations that his impartiality could be called into question as he holds office in the local Conservative Party and is a member of the Institute of Directors.

Representatives of Price Waterhouse, the city accountants, appointed sequestrators of the union funds, confirmed to the court that they have not been able to secure any further money on top of £8,145 already in their possession to pay the £200,000 contempt fine.

The new receiver, if approved by the judge today, will be Mr Michael Arnold, senior insolvency partner with Arthur Young McClelland Moores who said after the hearing that he expected to be able to employ a large team in the bid to gain control of NUM assets. He said he was not a member of any political party but had once been a Young Conservative. "This will not be any different from any other insolvency involving the collection of assets," he said.

Mr David Oliver, representing 16 working miners who last Friday won the emergency order appointing the receiver after alleging that the NUM's three senior officials were not fit and proper persons to control the funds, repeated the argument yesterday when he asked for the receivership to continue.

Counsel for the NUM was unable to give an assurance that the officials would in future abide by orders of the court.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, said he would give his verdict this afternoon on whether the receivership should continue.

● The Midlands area council of the NUM is expected at its meeting today to discuss a plan by working miners to take high court action and to call in the receiver to handle the affairs of the area.

Mr Arnold: Poised to take over.

Councils to give food to miners

By Staff Reporter

Sheffield City Council, which is Labour controlled, plans to provide £30 Christmas food hampers free for the families of striking miners in the city, at a cost of £42,000.

In Doncaster 7,000 children will receive £5 vouchers, the council is also paying £1,000 to persuade a circus to stage 12 free shows.

● Coal board figures show that 63 men abandoned the miners' strike to return to work on yesterday's day shift. The week's total so far is 556.

● Policing the miners' strike has cost Lancashire ratepayers £6 million, most of it for sending officers to pits across the country. So far the county has been repaid only £1 million by the police forces it has helped.

● An offer has been sent to the NUM from the left-wing trade union confederation in Rome to provide holidays in Italy for about 100 children of families of striking miners.

● The Treasury Solicitor is considering whether to take the students' union of North London Polytechnic to court for using its funds to contribute £1,000 to the families of striking miners.

● Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), today denounced the intransigence of both sides in the pit strike. He Says: "In Acas we never give up. But it would be useless for us to take any further initiative all the time that each side remains in its present entrenched position".

● Reginald Hancock, aged 21, and Russell Shankland, aged 20, the two striking miners accused of murdering South Wales taxi driver, Mr David Wilkie, were remanded in custody for another week after they made a brief appearance before Merthy Tydfil magistrates court yesterday. An inquest on Mr Wilkie, aged 35, will open at Merthy today. His funeral takes place at Pontypridd on Tuesday.

Strike stops pit jobs for school leavers

By Craig Seton

Several hundred school leavers in Yorkshire have lost the chance of jobs in the coal industry this year because of the miners' strike.

The National Coal Board's four Yorkshire areas recruited about 700 school leavers, many of them the sons of miners, for training last year, and had expected to take on several hundred more this year to replace men leaving through natural wastage.

Only 3,000 of the 55,000 men in the four areas are working, and coal board officials have been unable to carry out the budgetary and manpower assessments on which future needs were to be based.

The coal board's western area announced earlier this week that because eight out of 10 of its miners were back at work, it was able to make such assessments. It has decided to recruit 235 men in the new year and several hundred more later in 1985.

Its officials have reacted angrily to an attack on its planned recruitment drive by Mr Joe Wills, the National Union of Mineworkers' North Staffordshire president, who was reported as saying that the board's announcement was "a dirty, underhand trick".

A coal board spokesman said: "The public must be confused by the union's utterances. In one breath they say they are fighting for jobs, and when we announce new ones they say we are dirty and underhand."

How union spent funds

Last year, the National Union of Mineworkers spent £5,563,006, nearly half of which went on salaries.

The Union refuses to disclose how it is financing its current operations, but sympathetic unions have been bankrolling the NUM, and it is also thought that some staff were paid several months in advance.

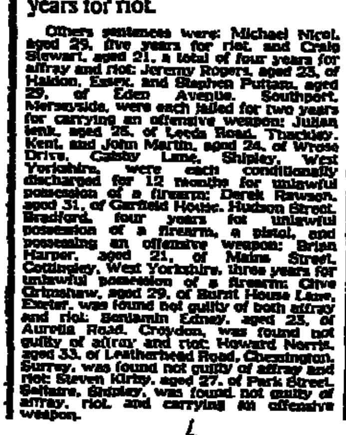
Full-time officials have not been paid since April, although a few are understood to be being paid from area funds, which are untouched by the High Court

The Union's income has been sharply diminished by the dispute, as fewer than a third of NUM members are continuing to work

NUM expenditure

	£
Staff pay and expenses	2,667,923
Stationery, printing, postage, telephone	447,705
Executive Committee expenses	409,427
Legal and professional charges	39,010
Light and heating	78,741
Insurance	11,787
Repairs and maintenance	46,435
Deputations and Negotiations	149,202
Travel	49,093
Bank charges	17,685
NUM journal	98,062
International delegations at home	12,518
Delegations abroad	60,702

Source: annual return for 1983 to the Certification Officer.



Prison for 'Hell's Angels' riot

Sentences of up to eight years were imposed yesterday on men convicted of taking part in a pitched battle at a Hell's Angels party which left two dead.

Three members of the motor cycle group, the Road Rats, and three members of the rival Satan Slaves were jailed for riot.

The jury at Winchester Crown Court was told that the battle began after a woman was staked out and sexually abused at an anniversary party of the Windsor chapter of the Hell's Angels. Some of the men taking part were said to have objected to photographs being taken of their club colours.

The fight began in a marquee at Cookham, Berkshire, and then spread to a cottage in the grounds. Two men died from stab wounds and others were seriously injured. Police later found a vast array of weapons.

The heaviest sentence was on John Connolly, a Road Rat, jailed for a total of eight years for affray and riot.

The judge, Mr Justice Sheldon, said that he had been a "prime mover and leading light" in last September's battle. "The publid, in my opinion, have to be spared your company for a considerable time," he said.

Connolly, aged 31, of Minerva Road, Kingston upon Thames, south west London, has previous convictions for affray. The court was told that in 1975 he and other Road Rats had been refused entry to a club in Barry, South Wales, and in the resultant melee a petrol bomb was thrown, the club manager's son was set alight and the club manager sustained a fractured skull.

Simon Willis, aged 25, a Satan Slave, of Eldon Road, Haldon, near Exeter, was jailed for a total of six years for riot and possessing an offensive weapon; Neil Grimshaw, aged 27, of Blare Cottages, Bearly, near Exeter, a total of six years for riot and possessing an offensive weapon; and his brother Paul, aged 32, of Pitt Farm, Whitestone, Exeter, five years for riot.

Others sentences were: Michael Nicol, aged 29, five years for riot, and Craig Stewart, aged 21, a total of four years for affray and riot; Jeremy Rogers, aged 23, of Haldon, Essex, and Stephen Puttam, aged 29, of Eden Avenue, Southport, Merseyside, were each jailed for two years for carrying an offensive weapon; Julian Jenk, aged 26, of Leeds Road, Thackley, Kent, and John Martin, aged 24, of Wrose Drive, Gatsby Lane, Shipley, West Yorkshire, were each conditionally discharged for 12 months for unlawful possession of a firearm; Derek Rawson, aged 31, of Garfield House, Hudson Street, Bradford, four years for unlawful possession of a firearm, a pistol, and possessing an offensive weapon; Brian Harper, aged 21, of Mains Street, Cottingley, West Yorkshire, three years for unlawful possession of a firearm; Clive Grimshaw, aged 29, of Burnt House Lane, Exeter, was found not guilty of both affray and riot; Benjamin Edney, aged 23, of Aurelia Road, Croydon, was found not guilty of affray and riot; Howard Norris, aged 33, of Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey, was found not guilty of affray and riot; Steven Kirby, aged 27, of Park Street, Saltaire, Shipley, was found not guilty of affray, riot, and carrying an offensive weapon.

Painter is elected RA president

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The artist Roger de Grey became the Royal Academy's twenty-first president in 216 years yesterday in the art world's version of a papal election.

Mr de Grey, aged 66, a leading figure in the academy since he became its treasurer in 1976, apparently won the race by a clear head. Mr Piers Rodgers, the academy's secretary declined the release voting figures in the election but added: "There is no blood on the floor. It only took a few rounds of voting to reach a majority."

In the traditional manner, Mr Rodgers appeared on the steps of the acedemy's staircase to announce the result to a waiting crowd of academy followers, journalists, and puzzled members of the public who were wondering what was keeping them from the exhibitions.

Flanked by Mr de Grey and the retiring president, Sir Hugh Casson, Mr Rodgers announced that the Queen, who is the academy's patron and protector, had been pleased to signify her approval of the result of the election.

The applause that greeted Mr de Grey even before the announcement indicated that the favourite had romped home.

Mr de Grey: Clear favourite of academy.

Sir Hugh then placed the gold medal and chain of office, presented by George IV in 1820, around Mr de Grey's neck. He is the fifteenth painter to hold the post. Five architects, Sir Hugh among them, have been president, and one sculptor.

Mr de Grey is the nephew of the artist Spencer Gore, and is now principal of the City and Guilds of London Art School. His work is widely purchased at home and abroad, and is featured in the collections of the Queen, the Tate, the Arts Council, and many provincial galleries.

Spectrum, Page10

Moore's graphic present

Henry Moore, aged 86, the sculptor, gave the British Council 280 of his best graphic works, worth £500,000, as a fiftieth birthday present yesterday.

The artist, who has long admired the council's work in taking British art overseas, said: "It gives me much pleasure to present these works for the British Council's fiftieth birthday. My graphic work has often been an introduction to many people who have then gone on to look at sculpture. I am very pleased it will now be out on exhibition with the British Council being seen by so many people around the world."

The graphics include some of his most famous portfolios, including the Auden Suite, Artist's Hands and Trees album, and his recent Animals and Sculptural Ideas works. They cover all periods of Moore's work from the 1930s

The new works will form part of the British Council's permanent collection. They will be used to mount circulating exhibitions on different aspects of Moore's graphics.

Moore's relationship with the council began in 1948 when he was selected to be Britain's representative at the Venice Biennale which launched his international reputation.

In 1979, he publicly defended the coucil when it faced a 20 per cent cut in its budget, reminding the Government that in the 10 years between 1967 and 1977 he had paid more than £4.5 million in income tax while the fine arts department of the cuncil had less than £1m to spend on overseas exhibitions.

MP in hospital

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, who suffered kidney failure earlier this year, has been readmitted to hospital

MPs' book-tax warning

More than 150 MPs were last night reported to have signed a Commons motion warning Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, against any attempt to impose value-added tax on books.

Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and one of the organizers behind the motion, said more than 70 Conservative MPs had supported the campaign.

The main sponsors of the motion include Mr Edward du Cann, former chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 committee.

'Eye' gives contempt undertaking

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Contempt of court proceedings against *Private Eye* ended yesterday with an undertaking by Mr Richard Ingrams, its editor, that the magazine would not carry material on the case of eight servicemen facing trial next year under the Official Secrets Act.

Contempt proceedings were begun earlier this week by counsel for the eight after an article appeared in *Private Eye* last week. Yesterday the magazine, while noting that the undertaking did not affect its contention that there had been no contempt, agreed to halt further distribution of the relevant issue.

The undertaking, which ends when the case is over, was given before Lord Justice Watkins, sitting as a judge of the Central Criminal Court, after Mr Dermot Wright, of seven of the eight defendants, said that the article referred to an outpost of GCHQ and homosexuality.

The article was about the case of the eight, who were in either the Royal Air Force or the Army in Cyprus.

Tape played of moment frigate hit bridge

A tape recording of a sailor reporting: "We have actualy hit London Bridge" was played yesterday at the Portsmouth court martial of Commander Colin Hamilton, captain of the Leander–class frigate, HMS Jupiter.

The 20-minute tape, the equivalent of an aircraft's black box, had recorded all the orders given by Commander Hamilton on June 13, as his ship drifted towards London Bridge. Commander Hamilton, aged 40, could be heard giving instructions for the ship to change course and speed. Moments before the collision another senior officer ordered: "Stop both engines. Clear the starboard side of the ship".

The next entry on the tape came several seconds later, with the sailor saying: "We have actually hit London Bridge. We are stuck under the bridge."

The frigate swept into the central arch, damaging its hull and causing £25,000 damage to the bridge, as it was turning round after a courtesy visit to London.

Commander Hamilton has admitted that he acted negligently by ingnoring expert advice about using secured tugs to turn the ship round.

He denied failing to ensure the Jupiter's departure was properly planned, committing the ship to the turn after being told one of the tugs was not in a position to help and failing to call in a second tug to assist in the manoeuvre.

The court martial continues today.

Sale Room

European post-war art breaks records

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Now that abstract painting is going out of fashion, the art market is consecrating the chief exponents of the art as "old masters" and sending their prices through the roof. The Americans are the most expensive but it was the turn of the Europeans to break price records at Sotheby's yesterday.

Some whitish paint on a greenish background entitled "Tete d'Otage, No 24" painted by Jean Fautrier in 1945 set a new auction price record for the artist at £126,500 (estimate £40,000-£50,000). Serge Poliakoff's "Composition" of 1957, a large patchwork of colours, set a record at £47,300 (estimate £25,000-£35,000) and Howard Hodgkin's "Mr and Mrs Robyn Denny" of 1960 at £41,800 (estimate £18,000-£25,000).

The auction of Post-War and Contemporary art made more than any previous London auction in this field at £1.9 million with only 16 per cent left unsold, a low percentage in so speculative a market.

At Christie's the early days of abstraction were in demand with an album of 1920 lithographs by the Russian artist Kasimir Malevich, entitled *Suprematizm 34 Risunka*, selling for £49,680 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) to a private collector.

Christie's autumn sale of French furniture was also unusually successful with a total of £653,551 and only two per cent unsold.

In a wine sale Christie's set a new auction price record for a corkscrew at £3,800 (estimate £1,000 plus) for a gold pocket corkscrew with a mother-of-pearl handle inset with a magnifying glass and enclosed in a shagreen case.

A first edition of T E Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* sold for £12,650 (estimate £6,000-£8,000).

Royal portraits, back page

Bottleneck ends

A four-mile section of the A55 expressway road was opened at Colwyn Bay, North Wales, yesterday, ending a notorious summer traffic bottleneck.

Hong Kong woman's plea

A Hong Kong woman, described as a valued member of a West Country community, took her fight to stay in Britain to an immigration appeal court in Southampton yesterday.

Miss Jenny Fu, aged 27, an accounting technician, has been living in Cambourne, Cornwall, for the past nine years. was given a job in a firm of accountants, as well as doing much voluntary social work.

Miss Fu was represented by Mr Larry Grant, who said that although under the immigration laws the appeal could not succeed, he hoped that the case's exceptional nature would mean that a recommendation would be made to the Home Secretary

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 9.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150

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Pink carriages part of profit-making package on faster British Rail

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

British Rail's first class Inter City carriages will turn pink on the inside next year. The colour scheme is part of a package designed to turn an expected deficit of £98 million this year into a £5 million profit by 1989, its director, Mr Cyril Bleasdale, announced yesterday.

The new interior décor along with new red black and beige external livery, will coincide with a programme of cost cutting, productivity improvements and new facilities for travellers. Second-class carriages will be decorated in red and green.

Inter city trains on the east and west coast lines will be quicker as a new generation of trains will have a maximum speed of 140 mph; a new fare structure will encourage more off-peak travel and cleaner, more comfortable coaches will offer telephones and better catering. More stations will be without ticket checks.

As two-thirds of inter-city passengers start or end their journey in the South-east, plans are being considered for services to go straight through London. That would involve reopening the Snow Hill link between Blackfriars and Farringdon in the City and upgrading a west London line to allow direct services from the North to Dover, Gatwick airport and Brighton.

More "parkway" stations at Doncaster, Didcot, Stockport, strategically placed close to motorways, and designed to stop the inter-city passenger being tempted to drive are planned.

But train *mileage* is to be reduced by 10 per cent, after a 26 per cent reduction since 1980. Passenger traffic is expected to grow by 4 per cent, but trains will have extra coaches to compensate.

The £103 million saving, Mr Bleasdale said, would come from three areas: £31 million from increased revenue from higher fares and improved marketing; £25 million from redesigning the inter-city network and £47 million from reduced costs.

The package could mean worse service for passengers, Mr Len Dumelow, secretary of the General Transport Consultative Committee, said. "In the drive to meet a tough financial target the advantages of fast, regular-interval services between city centres are being sacrificed."

Tory rebels support TV levy for films

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The BBC and independent television companies face paying up to £20 million a year to support the British film industry after a Government defeat yesterday during the committee stage of the Films Bill.

Four Conservative MPs defied party whips and supported an amendment which would impose on television companies showing feature films a levy, based on the size of audiences, be passed on to film-makers.

The defeat came after bitter criticism of the Government's plan to provide only £1.5 million a year for the next five years, after the scrapping of the Eady levy and the National Film Finance Corporation.

Mr John Gorst, Conservative MP for Hendon North, who proposed the levy, was supported on the Tory side by Mr Timothy Brinton, MP for Gravesham, Mr Jeremy Hanley, MP for Richmond and Barnes, and Mr Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North.

Although the amendment was strongly opposed by Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, it was passed

Mr Brinton said that the supply of British films had been severely limited during the past decade, and without proper financial support they would disappear.

Mr Gale, a former television producer, said that television companies, and latterly the video tape industry, had been "parasites" upon the film industry.

Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens, South, said the levy "could bring in between £10 million and £20 million a year. This would provide the basic funding to help the British film industry".

The insertion of a call for a levy will delight the cinema industry, which has been remarkably united in calling for such a measure (David Hewson writes).

The Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACCT) hopes that further amendments will be tabled to stave off the ending of the Eady levy, the tax on cinema seats which is used to fund the National Film Finance Corporation. The Government wants to privatize the NFFC and abolish the levy.

Nash villa is sold for over £5m

By Our Property Correspondent

The Holme, Regent's Park, one of the finest houses in London, has been sold in conditions of the utmost secrecy to a private buyer for occupation as his London home at a price of more than £5 million.

Negotiations for the sale by Knight Frank and Rutley, on behalf of the Crown Estate Commissioners, have been in progress for some time "very privately" the agents say, and binding agreements for the sale were exchanged earlier this week.

The house, designed by Decimus Burton and completed in 1818, is one of the few remaining Nash villas in the park, and stands in 4.5 acres with a wide frontage to the lake. The lease reverted to the Crown from Bedford College recently.

Dole fraud money sought

The social security office in Torquay is taking steps to retrieve from 16 unemployed young people the £6,500 swindled in the "Costa del Dole" fraud admitted at Exeter Crown Court this week, even if it takes years.

The money was falsely claimed by the young people who said they were staying at an hotel and paying £44 bed and breakfast when they were, staying with friends or living rough.

Welsh protest student jailed

Nine Welsh language demonstrators, arrested when they occupied the City and Guilds Institute at Kings Cross, London, protesting at the lack of examinations in Welsh, appeared before magistrates at Clerkenwell yesterday.

Ceri Wyn, aged 26, a student from Aberystwyth was jailed for a week when he refused to be bound over to keep the peace. Eight others were bound over in the sum of £200 each. All admitted breach of the peace.

Siege charge man remanded

Michael Hood, afged 20, unemployed, appeared before Thetford magistrates yesterday in connection with a two-day siege at the Norfolk town which ended on Wednesday.

Hood, from Rocklands, was remanded in custody for eight days, charged with illegal possession of a firearm with intent :o endanger life.

Religious mood on Radio 4

Religion is coming to the fore in the Christmas schedules for Radio 4 which were announced by the network's controller, Mr David Hatch, yesterday.

"Some listeners have told me they'd like to see a little more emphasis on the Christian side of the Christmas festival on Radio 4, and I'm happy to oblige them," Mr Hatch said. "I think radio has negleted the religious aspect in recent years."

The daily service will be extended for the holiday; Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, gives the thought for the day on three consecutive days; and James Fox will read *The Christmas Story* on Christmas Day. There is a meditation every night during Christmas week, and two carol services.

Five Bernard Shaw plays will be broadcast on consecutive nights: *Man abd Superman, St Joan, The Apple Cart, Major Barbara,* and *The Doctor's Dilemma.*

Horizon cuts 1985 price rises

By Our Commercial Editor

Horizon, Britain's thrid largest package tour company, is relaunching its summer 1985 brochure with price rises trimmed back by 3 per cent although it claims that the move should not start a new price war.

But at the same time the Civil Aviation Authority has given a warning that the current level of tour operator failures could continue next year, after 1984's 20 collapses, the highest annual figure so far.

The authority proposed more protection by increasing the financial bonds put up by holiday companies to recompense holidaymakers when an operator goes bankrupt. That immediately sparked a dispute with the Association of British Travel Agents whose members are affected by the proposal.

The price increases were revised because competitors had undercut some of Horizon's prices, Mr Ken Franklin, managing director of Horizon Holidays, said. The cutback would largely be at the expense of profit margins, he said.

The main cuts are in Spanish holiday prices.

Individual holidays have been cut by between £5 and £60.

Inquest opens on victims of rail crash

An inquest was opened yesterday on the two people who died when an inter-city express crashed into a fuel tanker train in Salford, Greater Manchester, on Tuesday.

Evidence of identification was given at the brief hearing in Salford on Mr Edward Croxford, aged 36, a train driver, of Mab Lane, West Derby, Liverpool; and Mr Samuel Kennedy, aged 72,, a passenger, of Lindale Avenue, New Moston, Manchester.

Mr Croxford died in the wreckage of the train and Mr Kennedy in hospital later the same day.

Mr David Blakey, the Greater Manchester west district coroner, who described the crash as "terrible", provisionally adjourned the hearing until February 14 next.

Two passengers who had been admitted to hospital after the crash were still in the Hope hospital, Salford, yesterday.

Increased irrigation leads to potato gluts

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The potato glut of the past few years is to a large extent the result of increased irrigation.

Until recently Britain was considered sufficiently wet for potato growing therefore obviating the need for expensive irrigation equipment. However, the Potato Marketing Board estimates that 28 per cent of this year's crop in England and Wales was irrigated.

The result has been a yield of 38.5 tonnes a hectare, compared with 31.2 last year and the previous record of 38.3 tonnes a hectare in 1982, when prices collapsed.

Other factors contributing to this year's surplus, estimated at 850,000 tonnes, were the excellent planting conditions that allowed good seed beds, and a degree of over planting.

Growers, however, are subject to quotas and a levy if they exceed their allocation. However, many growers are prepared to pay the levy

The cost to the taxpayer of the board's intervention into the market will this year be at least £18 million; the cost of taking 450,000 tonnes off the market, dyeing it and feeding it to pigs.

Phone links for plane passengers

By Our Technology Correspondent

Telephones for passengers will be commonplace in aircraft within the next decade if plans for a $500 million (£400 million) global satellite network are realized.

Investment in the network, which will begin operations in about four years' time, will be made by Inmarsat, the international maritime satellite organization, which represents 41 governments and was created about two years ago to co-ordinate and encourage maritime communication using satellites.

Many airlines have expressed interest in the system. In Britain the electronics company Racal is conducting tests with British Airways and British Telecom International. The frequencies used by marine traffic and aircraft are virtually adjacent – around 1,500 MHz – which makes the use of maritime communication satellites by aircraft logistically feasible.

A new type of satellite will be required by Inmarsat to accommodate the aircraft communication. The new design would have about 80 channels, double present capacity. Two consortia are competing for the contract, which is to be awarded next spring. They are British Aerospace/Hughes (USA) and Marconi/Ford Aerospace (USA).

The satellite system would offer airlines telephone and telex facilities for passengers; sophisticated communications between the aircraft and its base allowing constant/automatic monitoring of the aircraft's performance and customer services such as reservations/ticket issues from on board; advanced air traffic control facilities to enhance aircraft safety.



Child's play: Claire Hirst at the computer yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Girl of two opens micro show

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

A girl of two who as yet cannot read or write but who is believed to be a prodigy with computers opened a four-day computer show in London yesterday.

Claire Hirst, from Bramhall, Stockport, has been playing with her BBC Microcomputer for nearly 18 months, helped by her father. His work as a credit control manager means he has to bring a microcomputer home and use it, and has encouraged his daughter's interest.

She as learnt how to respond to pre-written software (computer programs) and can write simple music and draw graphics. Recently she used a music program to compose her own version of Good King Wenceslas, and a drawing program to design her own Christmas cards.

Database Publications, the organizers of the BBC Micro User Show at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, said: "We were simply astounded when we saw what this child could do.

"What better way is there to let people know how easy it is to handle a computer than to let them see it being operated by a two-year-old, even if she is a prodigy."

● Security risks from terrorism, kidnapping and civil disturbance around the world can be assessed by executives with a new computer databank published by Datasolve. It has more than 1,000 pages supplying companies in 142 countries, using information from Control Risks Information Services (CRIS), an international political risks consultancy.

Faster home sales with bigger land registry

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Measures to simplify and speed house sales through extending the compulsory registration of land were announced by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday.

He has approved an order which will extend compulsory land registration to cover areas containing nearly 80 per cent of the population in England and Wales, compared with 73 per cent at present.

The order, to take effect in April or November 1985, depending on district, will bring about the first extension of compulsory land registration – except for former council houses – since 1978.

It is the first of two orders which will implement the Government's aim to simplify house sales.

The second order, to extend compulsory registration to cover 85 per cent of the population in England and Wales by 1987, is expected to be made next year.

Among districts where the order takes effect from April are: Amber Valley, Derbyshire; Hyndburn, Lancashire; Northavon, Avon; Pendle, Lancashire; Restormel, Cornwall; Thamesdown, Wiltshire; Woodspring, Avon.

Among those where the order takes effect from November are: Boothferry, Humberside; Chelmsford, Essex; Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Corby, Northamptonshire; Great Yarmouth, Norfolk; Monmouth, Gwent; Rutland, Leicestershire; Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Library acquires Spencer archive

By Kenneth Gosling

The family papers of the Princess of Wales, a literary and political archive of considerable historic importance, have been acquired from the Spencer family of Althorp by the British Library for an undisclosed amount.

Negotiated by private treaty, the sale was assisted by a grant of £128,398 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and £5,000 from the Friends of the National Library. There was "a major allocation" of funds from the British Library which benefits, with the vendor, from exemption from capital tax applied to private treaty sales of works of art to the nation. The estimated value of the papers could be as much as £600,000.

The archive dates from the sixteenth century, the earliest record relating to the period of the Spencer family's rise to greatness and including a sub-archive of the Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland from 1555 to 1625. Among the rich material of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries are the voluminous papers of Sarah, 1st Duchess of Marlborough, including her 26 wills and many letters from Queen Anne.

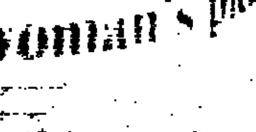
Three items go on display in the British Library's manuscript saloon from today: minutes by Sir George Savile, Marquess of Halifax, of a meeting of a group of peers in December 1688 when they debated whether to send James II to the Tower; a volume of the Queen Anne letters and an opinion on the Irish question from Charles Parnell to the 5th Earl.

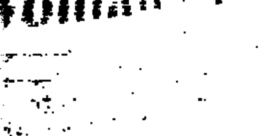
Cheese to cost more

Milk supplies to creameries for making cheese fell by more than 700 million litres in the period April to October this year.

The fall was due to the combined effect of quotas and the summer drought.

The result will be seen in rising cheese prices, with an expected 5p a pound increase soon after Christmas.





PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 6 1984 Thatcher and Lawson on tax cuts ● NCB cannot budge

PM's tax goal: need to lift thresholds to help those on low pay

PUBLIC SPENDING

The Government's decision to drop the proposal that parents should contribute to the tuition fees of students and the consequential £11m cut in the planned increase in the science budget dominated questions to Mrs Thatcher,the Prime Minister, in the Commons.

After a Conservative backbencher had observed amid aughter that he hoped ministers other than Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, would be equally forthcoming and flexible on other things in the coming months, Mrs Thatcher turned to her supporters and reminded them that there was great need to lift taxation at the threshold in order to help those on comparatively low wages. "We have to find ways to cut taxation," she said.

There was also need to increase the gap between those on social security and those on earnings. They had to take steps to contain public expenditure over which there were always difficult decisions to make.

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, particularly condemned the reduction in the planned increase in the science budget. She retorted that the science budget was £530 million compared with £274 million under Labour who in one year had had to cut public expenditure by £9,000 million an action she applauded.

Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C) said that what happened yesterday on student grants had enhanced the reputation of Sir Keith Joseph and of this House?

Although I do not want to put it too far (he warned), will she have a word with some of her other colleaagues and ask them to be equally forthcoming and flexible on other things in the coming months? (Laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: No, I shall not urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to have more public expenditure.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab): As the Prime Minister ponders the implications of yesterday's shabby U-turn in favour of the better-off, has it not occurred to her that any future invocation by her of the Tory spirit of one nation must only serve to highlight her own entrenched position on unemployment that there is no alternative, as she puts it?

Does she not see that the danger ahead is that as her rebellious backbenchers become increasingly rattled, having turned her Education Secretary and her Chancellor this week, they will not ponder in turn that the lady herself may be for turning?

Mrs Thatcher: He clearly worked very hard at that question. I thought yesterday's statement was really received rather well, very well indeed and rather widely well. There is an increase in the science budget which is far above what it was in 1978-79.

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: In the course of making a desirable concession yesterday, the Government robbed science in order to save its own skin, regardless of the damage thereby inflicted on British engineering, medicine, industry and technology?

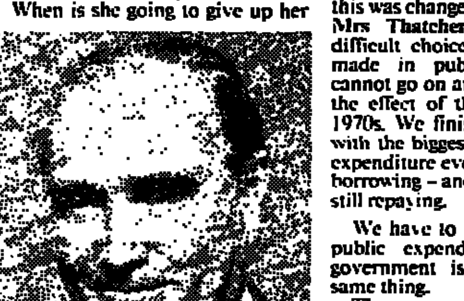
If it is the case that last week, in the words of the Education Secretary, the desperate plight of the scientists could wait no longer, why can it wait longer this week?

Mrs Thatcher: The science budget this coming year is above that for this year. The budget this year, 1984-85, under the stewardship of Sir Keith Joseph, consists of £530 million, compared with Mr Kinnock's last year of government, when it was £274 million.

Mr Kinnock: She is misleading the House and the country. If she compares like with like, the actual rate of growth in investment in science under the last Labour Government was four times what it is under this Government.

For four years, this Government has been cutting back on research expenditure and just last week the Council of Research Councils reported that worse is to come because the decrease in investment in science is going to go on because of the Government's policies.

When is she going to give up her obsession with cuts and the way in which she wastes national assets and national interests?



Hordern: Reviews like Russian roulette

Mrs Thatcher: He talks about an obsession with cuts. The biggest public expenditure cuts in the last 10 years were between 1976 and 1977 under his government. That is bigger than anything ever known.

Taking it all in 1982-83 prices, in one year his government cut public expenditure by £9,000 million. I congratulate him on being the government to cut public expenditure by a bigger amount than ever before.

Even with a £9,000 million cut under Labour, the best he could do for the science budget was £274 million in 1978. That is where he left it. It has now gone up by far more than inflation and is £530 million. He should congratulate Sir Keith Joseph.

Mr Kinnock: I would like to be able to do that but I would have to congratulate him for misleading the House.

Will she admit that whereas all of the alpha projects in 1979 were paid for by the Labour government, only half are now? If she is so proud of the record, will she say there will be no further cuts in the Government's research budget in future?

Mrs Thatcher: His is no person to say there should never be Government cuts, holding the record for cuts in public spending. They were hard cuts in the real value of the health service and cuts in aid. Sir Keith Joseph has done very excellent things for science.

Mr Peter Hordern (Horsham, C): It would be a good idea to undertake a long-term review of public expenditure across departments and bring it forward together with revenue at the beginning of the year so that the fullest consultation with the House may take place.

The Chancellor's autumn reviews have so far been altogether too much like Russian roulette with the pistol pointing at our feet. It is time this was changed.

Mrs Thatcher: Thee are always difficult choices which have to be made in public expenditure. It cannot go on and on rising. We saw the effect of that during the mid-1970s. We finished up at the IMF, with the biggest single cut in public expenditure ever known, the biggest borrowing – and this Government is still repaying.

We have to take steps to contain public expenditure. Every other government is having to do the same thing.

There are difficult choices. Naturally I am anxious to let MPs have as much information as possible. We have to recognise that if we are to help those people on low wages to have bigger net take-home pay, we have to find a way to cut taxation.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the Social Democrats: As someone who was for four years Secretary of State for Education and Science, who is herself a scientist and an honorary fellow of the Royal Society, does she not feel it was niggardly to pull back this money that science desperately needs.

Mrs Thatcher: No. Dr Owen knows that in government there are difficult choices to make. He is now in the company of an opposition that refuses to make these choices.

PM says NCB can move no further

COAL DISPUTE

The National Coal Board could move no further in concessions to striking miners, Mr Thatcher, the Prime Minister, emphasised during questions in the Commons.

Exchanges on the coal dispute began when Mr Mark Fisher (Stoke-on-Trent, Central, Lab) asked if Mrs Thatcher had read an article in the January issue of *Accountancy Today* in which five independent academics concluded that the NCB's accounts did not "form an adequate basis for informed management decisions".

In particular (he said) it was the view of the academics that the accounting instrument for pits was totally flawed for making closures because of the policy towards depreciation, stocks and surface damage.

Mrs Thatcher: If Mr Fisher regards the whole matter of coal merely as accounting – (Opposition laughter) – he will be quite happy if we eliminate the £1,300m subsidy to the NCB. That is not a matter of accounting, that is a matter of fact.

The calculations of the academics are misleading. In particular their calculations were based on the 1981-82 results when Cortonwood lost £6.2 per tonne. In 1983-84 it lost £32 a tonne. If it was only accounting we could cut off the £1,300 million and be better off.

Ms Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab): Vast and growing numbers of people in Britain are deeply worried at the division and bitterness and economic decline that Mrs Thatcher's Government has brought to the country.

Before irreparable harm is done, will Mrs Thatcher make some concessions so we can settle the coal strike and shift her economic policy so we can begin to deal with unemployment?

Mrs Thatcher: No. The NCB has negotiated and made concessions. There have been none from the other side. The NCB can move no further.

● Later, during business questions, Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) asked: The Prime Minister clearly thinks the report of five academic accountants is unimportant. Does the Leader of the House share the general view that as the NCB sought to suppress this report, they clearly regard it as being important?

As accounting methods have a direct effect on Government policy, not least in the setting of financial targets for the NCB, will he arrange for the Chancellor to come to this House at an early opportunity so that all MPs have an opportunity of putting questions on this?

Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House: I will draw the Chancellor's attention to the point: It is just conceivable this document which is about to become part of the New Testament, is not as compelling in its reasoning.

Those who are concerned to bring about an early termination of the coal dspute have to persuade Mr Scargill to take the Nacods (pit deputies union) agreement as the basis for further talks.

Difficult choices have to be made about state spending

THE ECONOMY

By having a firm grip on public spending and holding it broadly constant in real terms over a period of years, the Government would have, as the economy continued to expand progressive scope for reductions in taxation, not just for the few but for the many, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the exchequer, told the Commons.

This had been achieved by a tax threshold increase well ahead of inflation and he hoped to continue this. There was a wide margin of uncertainty but the scope perhaps £1,500m of tax cuts in the coming Budget was something which would be of comfort to the unemployment particularly.

If growth in 1985 turned out as expected, the economy would have grown since 1981 by almost 12 per cent. This was far from the weak recovery that some had talked about. It also compared favourably with overseas competition.

In referring to sale of British Telecom shares, Mr Lawson said it was a massive leap forward in achieveing people's capitalism.

He was moving a Government motion approving his Autumn Statement of November 12, welcoming the prospect of continuing low inflation and steady growth as the basis for maintaining the trend of rising employment, and congratulating the Government on keeping the public expenditure total for 1985-86 within the figure published in the 1984 White Paper.

He said the Government's record owed much to its resolution in tackling the relentless upward pressure of public spending, reducing the share of national income absorbed by the public sector, and freeing resources for more productive use by private enterprise.

Over the next year the Government would have achieved a significant period when inflation had been at or below 5 per cent. This seemed scarcely imaginable when it took office just over five years ago. But now expectations were adjusted to this much lower inflation rate, providing the basis for further progress on inflation which the Government's policies were designed to achieve.

The recovery differed from those in the recent past. Firstly, it had been restricted by a sharp and necessary rise in the profits of industry and commerce. Also, there had not been a great resurgence of stock building which had previously proved an element of instability. Other recoveries had had to end because of a resurgence of inflation, too. This had not occurred during this recovery.

The remaining worry, unemployment, could also have improved if only real wages had grown less rapidly. Labour MPs could not close their eyes to this.

However well Britain did in improving her economic performance, she was inevitably exposed to the world background. The forces of protectionism threatened to poison the trading climate and to weaken the fabric of international economic and political co-operation, as occurred in the thirties.

The challenge before us (he said) is not merely to resist protectionism but to push forward with negotiations for further liberalization in the framework of the General agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The level of interest rates was linked closely to the economic prospects of the United States which would soon become for the first time a net international debtor. It could fairly quickly become the world's largest debtor.

For the world's wealthiest economy to be a large borrower of capital from the rest of the world was not desirable or sustainable. No other country could sustain that sort of imbalance for as long as the Americans had done. Yet even they were increasingly coming to recognize the need for painful remedial action.

Referring to the criticisms by the Treasury Select Committee of the manner in which the Government set its spending priorities, he said some very hard decisions had to be made about spending. Because these decisions were important and some controversial, there was naturally much interest in the setting in which they were taken.

Lawson: No magic mechanism for priorities

If a group of ministers met late at night or was dubbed the "star chamber" this was instantly newsworthy, perhaps more so than the issues they were actually discussing.

Whatever group of ministers or departments involved, whatever the forum, whatever the setting there could be no magic mechanism for setting priorities within and between programmes. In the end there had to be a political judgement and a political decision.

Privatization was on course and proving outstandingly successful. Twelve major companies, a number of other enterprises and over 400,000 jobs had been shifted from the state sector to the private sector. He stressed jobs deliberately. Enough companies had now been privatized to demonstrate that privatization was a textbook proof of the benefits of free market enterprise over collective state activity.

An essential feature of the Government's economic strategy was encouraging the spirit of individual ownership. It wanted to make a reality of the vision of a property-owning democracy. The successful sale of BT shares was a massive leap forward in achieving that objective.

Investment in shares had begun to take its place alongside ownership of one's home and bank or building society deposits as a way for ordinary people to participate in enterprise and wealth creation. They were seeing the birth of people's capitalism.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab) moved an Opposition amendment refusing to support an economic policy calculated to create and sustain a high level of unemployment, and rejecting the false belief that a constant reduction in public expenditure would produce an automatic improvement in economic performance.

He said the Government and no policy for dealing with unemployment except to sit back and watch it rise year after year while it concentrated on economic objectives more important to it and its class.

Regional aid, already 35 per cent below the 1979 figure was now, thanks to the Autumn Statement, to be cut by £1,500 million over the next five years. Why was it that Mr Lawson always chose the high unemployment option?

They were told that the Government proposed a cut in the housing programme of £65 million. That was bad enough. It was a further blow for the construction industry where 400,000 men and women were already out of work. It was a further blow for the badly housed and homeless families who would number one million by 1988.

It was also a deception because while the reduction in gross capital provision for housing was £65 million, Department of the Environment figures subsequently published showed the change in the cash limits was £495 million.

The two sets of figures (he said) are massaged into compatibility by a forecast that the income for which council house sales provide the source will rise by £430m next year.

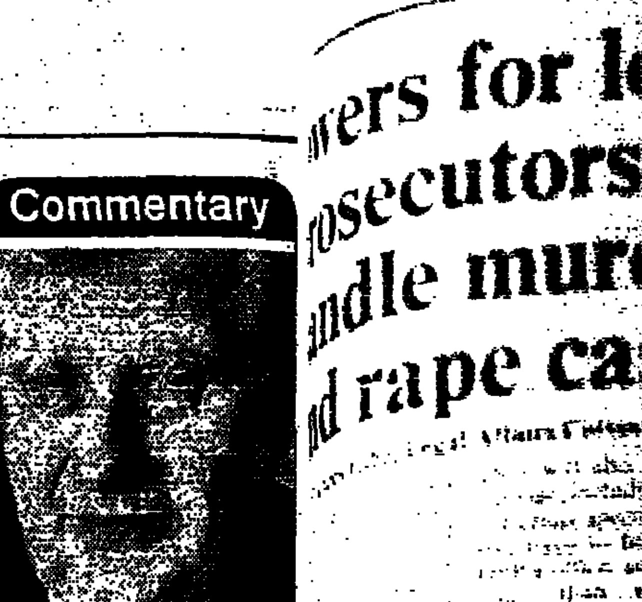
But according to the DoE receipts from council house sales were beginning to decline. Furthermore, the DoE said they had no way of knowing if income from council house sales went to build more houses or if it was used for other purposes.

Yet Mr Lawson blandly said to justify his final figure that there would be £430m more and therefore there was only a cut of £65m.

The entire figure was an invention made to balance the Chancellor's books. It had not even fooled the Building Employers' Federation. The builders had actually seen through the Government and reported in their bulletin that while the Government pretends there will be a 6 per cent fall in building next year, in reality there will be a 25 per cent fall.

Those are the shameful facts (he said) that demonstrate that everybody who does business with the Chancellor, builders no less than politicians, have to look for the sleight of hand, double counting and the dubious assumptions.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Backbenchers anxious to support the Government must be brought at a reasonably early stage into consultation. That was the doctrine proclaimed by Sir William Van Straubenzee when Sir Keith Joseph capitulated to his critics in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

It was clearly the conclusion being drawn from the student grants fracas by many other Conservative MPs. But it was not only backbenchers who were not consulted beforehand. Neither was the Cabinet.

Why should it have been? Sir Keith would hardly have wished to protest against his own proposal, and he was not in conflict with any of his colleagues. The cuts had been agreed in bilateral discussion with the Treasury. For the Cabinet not to be troubled in these circumstances was in keeping with the way in which Cabinet conventions have developed in recent years.

The cut in real terms in the Foreign Office budget has been the most contentious item after student grants in the present public expenditure round. Sir Geoffrey Howe resisted this reduction before the Star Chamber and in direct meetings with the Prime Minister. But when he found that he was not making headway he decided that it would be pointless to take his case to Cabinet.

Last year the decision to cut housing benefits did not go to the Cabinet. But there was such a furore that Mr Norman Fowler was forced to modify his proposal. The dramatic abolition of exchange controls in October 1979 went through without reference to the Cabinet or even to its economic committee.

What emerges from all these cases is a tendency nowadays to regard the Cabinet as the final court of appeal. If the issue can be settled in a lower court why bother to go higher? So the trend is for as many questions as possible to be resolved in Cabinet committees, in direct discussions between the departmental ministers concerned or with the Prime Minister.

Weaknesses and dangers

This is not a trend that began with Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Richard Crossman commented in his *Diaries* in April 1965, within six months of entering the Cabinet: "Harold Wilson is keeping to the rule that we should only discuss things in Cabinet which we can't resolve in a Cabinet committee or which the Prime Minister thinks so important that we must make our individual decisions upon time".

But there used to be a less restrictive tradition. Herbert Morrison, an astute manager of government business, listed in it years before Crossman wrote, *Government and Parliament*, a number of other considerations which a minister ought to have in mind before deciding whether to take a question to Cabinet.

"Does what I propose to do raise new issues of government policy of sufficient importance to warrant Cabinet consideration? Will it involve substantial parliamentary or public controversy? Is it likely to cause embarrassment to the Government at home or abroad, or cause difficulty among ministerial supporters in Parliament?"

According to one o, other of these criteria, each of these examples from the past few years should have been brought to Cabinet. As Ivor Jennings put it in his stanard work, *Cabinet Government*: "The minister who refers too much is weak; he who refers too little is dangerous."

The danger is that politically sensitive decisions will be taken without benefit of the full range of political exper ience and judgement available to a Cabinet. That is what happened over student grants. Sir Keith was trying to move in broadly the right direction but at a pace and in a way that was not politically acceptable.

Some ministers saw the warning signs before the full furore developed. Had there been a Cabinet discussion beforehand it is possible that the political risks might have been minimized.

The objection is that if this was done often the Cabinet agenda would soon become overloaded. Considerations of efficiency demand that as much business should be dealt with outside Cabinet as possible. But one of the dangers for any government with a very large majority, that has been in office for a long time without an effective opposition, is that it will come to attach too much importance to good management and too little to good politics.

Government intends to improve nation's diet

FOOD AND DRINK

Action by the Government aimed at improving the nation's diet was outlined in the Commons by Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, when she was asked in the Commons if the Government had reached any decisions about the report of the committee on the medical aspects of food policy on diet and disease. She said the Government hoped to be able to make an announcement of its response to the report within the next three months.

We are (she went on) looking at the practicalities and problems of labelling food with fat content and having discussions with consumers and enforcement authorities on the best way to do it.

We are commissioning a study of consumers' attitudes and understanding of labelling. If we are to label, we want to be sure that it is intelligable.

We are discussing with the alcoholic drinks trade alcohol strength marking and discussing with industry how they can introduce ways of producing food with less fat and salt.

Sir Peter Mills (Torridge and West Devon, C) complained of phases and fads. A few years ago (he siad) we were not able to eat bread or potatoes. Now we have to eat them for roughage purposes and all of us are chewing the cud in the evening. (laughter)

Mrs Fenner: the report recognizes that the evidence is short of proof, but the recommendations are based on careful review of all the available evidence. The report represents the best scientific and medical evidence available to the Government.

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab) asked if she shared the concern of the medical profession that there should be Government action to improve food quality and preventive measures such as those adopted in the United States, Canada, Israel and the Scandinavian countries which would have an impact on heart disease.

Mrs Fenner: Of course the Government is concerned. We are now studyng this considerable report and looking at the ways in which, as it affects in my department, we can implement it.

New orders save jobs at ROFs

HOUSE OF LORDS

Redundancies at the Royal Ordnance Factories at Birtly and Bishopston would be less than anticipated as a result of new orders.

Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said during question time in the House of Lords.

Answering questions on progress in achieving the purposes of the Royal Ordnance Factories and Military Services Act 1984, he said: Some of the redundancies orignally foreshadowed at two of the factories, at Birtly and Bishopston, will not now be as serious as at first feared.

At Birtly 261 less jobs are likely to be lost as a result of a recent order and at Bishpston there will be a saving of 240 jobs against the figure originally given because of the improved workload.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on tourism.

Two days on GLC Bill

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Representation of the People Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Debate on EEC budget for 1985.

Wednesday and Thursday: Local Government Bill, progress on committee stage.

Friday: Debate on private Member's motion on board and lodging payments and consequences for homeless people.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Debate on draft agreement on future of Hong Kong. Debate on the £1 note.

Tuesday: Food and Environment Protection Bill, committee, second day.

Wednesday: Debate on unemployment.

Thursday: Valerie Mary Hill and Alan Monk (Marriage Enabling) Bill second reading.

Further £5m for Scottish students

A further £5 million would be spent on students awards in Scotland, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, anounced in the Commons when making a statement of the implications for Scotland of the withdrawal of proposals to make parents pay a contribution towards students' tuition fees.

He said just over £2 million of the extra money to be spent on students' awards in Scotland next year would come from extra money to be given to the Scottish block. The rest, about £3 million, would have to be found from within the block.

He expected to announce the full details of his spending programmes for 1985-86 next week.

Subject to further scrutiny of priorities within my overall programme (he said) it still remains my intention that additional resources will be made available to the Scottish central institutions to increase the output of engineering and technology graduates.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman for Scotland, said Scotland had come badly out of the compromise package

The budgets of English departments would have to find £11 million out of the extra £21 million to be spent, while Scottish departments would have to find £3 million out of the extra £5 million to go on students' awards. This was a clear discrepancy.

He called for an assurance that Mr Younger was at the meeting which decided on the Government's climb own.

Mr Younger said Scotland was treated exactly the same as every other part, bearing in mind that the university system was different with four-year courses.

The decision on the new package was a collective one (he added) and taken in a series of consultations in which I was fully involved.

Dairy industry coping with quotas

AGRICULTURE

The dairy industry is showing that it has the enterprise and will to cope with the quota system constructively, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in the Commons. When we have achieved a better balance in the market (he went on) the industry will be on a more sound and stable basis for the future.

Mr Geraint Howells (Ceredigion and Pembroke North, L): Will he assure British dairy farmers that he will abolish the basic co-responsibility levy in 1985? Which countries within the Community are collecting the super levy and what is the position in Britain?

Mr Jopling: I hope that in 1985 we can get a cut in the levy in the context of a tough price policy. So far as I am aware the only country which has actually collected it up to this time, and no payments have yet become due until December 14, is West Germany. We shall be discussing these matters at the Agricultural Council in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday.

Sir Michael Shaw (Scarbborough, C): There is great concern in the industry that the uncertainty of future levels should be solved as soon as possible so that some sort of stability can be restored to the industry.

Mr Jopling: I am aware of the problems which still exist through some producers not knowing the final level of their levy. It is to hurry up this process that we have agreed to treble the size of the tribunal from 30 to 90 members.

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L): Is he satisfied with the effect wch the outgoers scheme is having on the price of stock within the industry? As the Treasury appears to be in concessionary mood this week, will he take steps to try to persuade them to relieve those dairy farmers in the scheme of capital gains tax, especially as it falls so heavily in the rst payment?

Mr Jopling: If he will look at the price of a dairy cow for the current period compared with a year ago, he will find that whereas a few months back prices were running somewhat below last year's that gap has now considerably closed. I think that the difference in price is now very small indeed.

Mr Colin Shepherd (Hereford, C): One unnecessary stress is caused by the inflexibility between the wholesale quota and the direct sales quota. Can he sustain pressure in the EEC Council of Ministers to achieve that necessary flexibility?

Mr Jopling: He is right to highlight that as the greatest single difficulty in implementing the scheme. I have been drawing the attention of the Council of Ministers to the problem of the inflexibility between the direct and wholesale quotas ever since the summer. I shall raise it again at the Council next week.

Mr Brynmor John, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture: Does he accept that the fact that he is not likely to achieve the quota in the United Kingdom this year speaks volumes about the haste and lack of forethought with which the milk quota scheme was introduced.

When does he think that uncertainty will be ended for the dairy industry?

Since workers are losing jobs, not because of inefficiency but because of efficiency, the Government should be turning its mind to proper redundancy payments so that they can be helped in a difficult time.

Mr Jopling: It is a fact that we have cut our milk production, so far, below the level of our quota for the period we have been talking about. I reject that this is a matter of lack of foresight.

The reason, above all, was the considerable drought in the summer and a member of my collegues in the Council of Ministers have approached me and expressed some disappointment that they did not have the same drought which brought down production. (Laughter.)

He could not say when farmers would receive their secondary quotas or final levels of quota.

The tribunal had many appeals and exceptional hardship cases before it. We have just enlarged it (he said) and it is too early to make an estimate of when people will finally know their quotas, but we are moving as quickly as possible.

Jopling after a cut in milk levy

Hopes of getting a cut in the milk co-responsibility levy were expressed by Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during Commons questions, e said that he hoped the milk quota scheme could be abandoned eventually.

Mr Jopling said the Government was opposed to the levy because it had not been effective in controlling the milk surplus.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C): Whatever the previous justification for the levy might have been, the introduction of the milk quotas and the super levy have rendered it unnecessary. Is there a prospect of getting rid of it in the near future?

Mr Jopling: I would hope that when we get to the next price fixing in the early months of next year we can get a cut in the levy in the context of a tough prices policy.

Mr James Nicholson (Newry and Armagh, OUP): In Northern Ireland farmers will pay almost £7 million for the diary quota scheme.

Will Mr Jopling add his weight to efforts to get the co-responsibility levy abolished as it is unnecessary in the light of the quotas?

Mr Jopling: I am intrigued to hear what he says about the level of the dairy quota levy which might be possible in Northern Ireland for this year because he makes assumptions on the amount of milk likely to be produced between now and the end of March.

But we will seek a cut in the co-responsibility levy.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) asked if any members of the EEC favoured its retention after the introduction of quotes instead of financial measures.

Mr Jopling said that some Community states favoured the levy in varying degrees. Had there been none it would have been a good deal easier to get rid of the thing.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) said the quota scheme seemed to have overtaken the levy. Was Mr Jopling satisfied that the quota scheme was being operated adequately by other EEC countries, particularly the French, in the same way that Britain was honouring the scheme.

Mr Jopling said he had no grounds for supposing that the scheme was being improperly or illegally implemented in any member state. He hoped Mr Torney would send any such evidence to him urgently.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C): Instead of hoping for a cut will he press for abolition of this discredited levy?

Mr Jopling replied that if they were just to scrap the levy without having a firm prices policy at the same time, there was the possibility on incentives at some future time to increase milk production in the event of the quota system being abandoned.

I still hope (he added) that at the end of the five-year period we can abandon the quota scheme altogether and return to a market managed, as it should be, by the discipline of price.

Rate capping: 2

The Liverpool factor comes to Hackney

Some of the best-known figures in local government are threatening to defy the Government next year over rate-capping. But *Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent*, explains in the second of three articles that the greatest threat could come from the least-known source.

Despite outward scorn, ministers are worried that Labour councillors in Liverpool are preparing to stage a second season of defiance.

There is still room for argument about what the council Labour leaders wrung from a reluctant Government after months of argument. What is beyond doubt is that they scored a propaganda victory over ministers who seemed in the final stages of the confrontation almost desperate not to take legal action against them.

Ministers want to avoid a second instalment, especially as they face threats of defiance from many more Labour-led councils. Some are talking of reneging on debt repayments to the discomfort of the City of London.

The Government does not need to go as far as Liverpool to find the seeds of confrontation. A 15-minute bus ride from the City of London would lead them to the borough of Hackney. Official figures based on the 1981 national census show it to be the most deprived area of Britain.

Like several other Labour-led councils in London, Hackney has been chosen for rate-capping. It has also adopted a policy of refusing to cut jobs and services or to raise council rents.

The leaders of several London councils have said for months that they favour defying the Government next year by refusing to levy a rate. The Government would thus face a united front from several councils. At the moment it is not illegal for a London borough council to omit to set a rate for the start of the financial year in April.

Those leaders do not, however, include the leader of Hackney Borough Council. She is Ms Hilda Kean, a teacher born in the borough. She has given few interviews since she became leader in the summer.

She is a relatively unknown quantity even in the Labour movement in London. The tactics being adopted by Hackney under her leadership differ from those of most of the Labour-led London boroughs chosen for rate-capping. She turned out in an interview with *The Times* to be a strong supporter of the stance adopted in Liverpool and is determined to pursue it in Hackney.

Unlike her counterparts in Liverpool, Ms Kean does not take refuge behind repetitive slogans. She is a shrewd politician, unbowed by the furious internal arguments that have marked her first months as council leader.

"If there is a confrontation, I think it is one that will have been caused by the Government. "I do not think the Government is in a very strong position if it is threatening people at this stage," she said.

The tactic chosen by Hackney is to charge a rate rise no higher than the increase in the cost of living. The majority Labour group on the council wants to spend far more than the Government thinks it should. That could lead to a rate rise of about 5 per cent to cover a spending increase of about 40 per cent, leaving more than £20 million not covered by rate revenue.

The tactic is being threatened for the second year running by Labour councillors in Liverpool. It sounds similar to refusing to levy rates at all. But paradoxically the law allows much quicker action against councillors who levy inadequate rates than against those who refuse to levy any.

Councils which levy rates deemed insufficient to cover planned spending can be forced to make a substitute rate. Hackney could therefore face legal action before many councils chosen for rate-capping. Ministers have listed the penalties which await councillors who break the law. Ms Kean had little to say about them.

"A scenario in which we talk about disqualification from office and surcharges is one that only takes place if we have lost," she said.

"I am convinced that we can defeat the Rates Act and stop the cuts taking place." But she had nothing to say about the means of securing that defeat beyond saying that "it is dependent on the support that can be mounted by local organizations". She also said nothing about her reaction to the threat of personal legal penalties.

She explained instead that the £30 million spending cut which the Government wanted to impose on Hackney next year through rate-capping was the exact equivalent of the amount it had taken from the borough by cutting rate support grant since 1979.

Ms Kean explained that almost all of the borough's elected representatives – from its member of the European parliament to borough councillors – belonged to the Labour Party. Of the 60 borough councillors, 50 are Labour, seven Liberal and three Conservative. "Those three Tory councillors represent one ward.

"We are being asked to impose the policies of those three councillors and that, I think, is disgraceful. The issue is whether we defend the people of Hackney or align ourselves with the Government."

She said that the cuts demanded by the Government through rate-capping would be deeply damaging in Hackney with its high unemployment rate. It could mean 2,000 redundancies from a council workforce of 7,000 and the loss of all home help, day nursery and meals-on-wheels services now supplied by the borough council.

"The Liverpool councillors were not entirely successful this year, "Ms Kean said. "But given what they were originally asked to do and given the package they came out with in the end, I think they actually had quite a lot of success."

Tomorrow: The Swindon effect



Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Powers for local prosecutors to handle murder and rape cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Powers for the new Crown prosecutors to handle offences such as murder, rape, arson and kidnapping without referring them to the Director of Public Prosecutions, are outlined in a White Paper published yesterday.

The proposals, by the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, QC, will come into force with the new independent prosecution service in 1986. They involve a radical redistribution of business between local prosecuting offices and the headquarters of the DPP so that in most cases decisions to prosecute will be made locally.

It is estimated that referrals to the DPP's office from local prosecuting departments, now running at about 14,000 a year, will be halved.

The DPP can take no action on these, refer them back for local prosecution, or prosecute himself, which occurs in some 1,500 to 2,000 cases. Many of those will, under the new service, be dealt with locally.

Among offences that the Crown prosecutors will tackle are: straightforward murder cases, wounding, grievous bodily harm, and all other offences contrary to the Offences Against the Person Act 1961, except those involving explosives. It also includes rape, indecent assault, gross indecency, and all other offences contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 1956. At present multiple rapes must be referred to the DPP.

The prosecutors will also deal with kidnapping, child stealing, offences involving the possession and supply of drugs, except conspiracies, and all robberies, burglaries and thefts. They will also handle criminal damage, including arson.

Certain specified offences will still have to be referred to the DPP's office, such as homicide, other than simple murder, death by reckless driving, attempted murder, abortion offences, treason, conspiracy to make or supply drugs, and criminal libel.

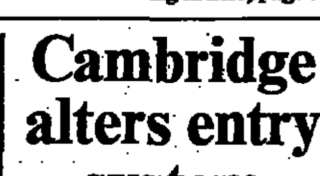
In addition, certain categories of offence will be referred, chiefly: large and complex frauds, obscene publications, allegations against the police, except inovolving the use of motor vehicles where no death is involved (to avoid any suggestion of local influence), and cases of exceptional public concern or difficulty.

The White Paper says that of offences now needing the DPP's consent for prosecution, those producing the most referrals include buggery and gross indecency between males where one is under 21, making false reports and wasting police time, incest, and theft or criminal damage to a spouse's property.

In all these cases prosecution decisions will normally be exercised locally. The new prosecutions service, to be set up under the recently published Prosecution of Offences Bill, is aimed at increasing public confidence in the prosecution process by separating it from police investigations. It is also intended to produce more consistency in prosecutions and cost effectiveness.

Welcoming the Bill and the White Paper, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, Solicitor General, said he hoped it would allay misgivings that the new service would be too centralized.

Leading article, page 13



Objections to Lakes tree scheme

A proposal by the Forestry Commission to plant more trees at Dunnerdale in the Lake District National Park, is to be opposed by the Countryside Commission and the Friends of the Lake District.

The site adjoins the Grassguards area, where a Forestry Commission planting scheme received many objections two years ago. Then permission was granted only after the planting area was reduced and a number of conditions imposed.

The Forestry Commission claims that its new scheme, which involves 95 per cent conifers, will improve the landscaping of the Grassguards basin.

But Mr Graham Coggins, the Countryside Commission's northern officer, said yesterday: "There is no justification for it on landscape grounds, as it will mean trees on the skyline which will be visible from a wide part of this beautiful area."

Mr Michael Houston, secretary of the Friends of the Lake District, said: "It is undulating fell country, attractive land, and we are totally opposed to planting there."

Cambridge alters entry system

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Cambridge University is reforming its admission system so that applicants will take an entrance examination in the same term as A levels, it was announced yesterday.

The new examination, to be called the Sixth Term Examination, is proposed by the working party set up under the chairmanship of Professor Sir John Butterfield, the university's vice-chancellor. The aim is to make the admissions system simpler and fairer to candidates from state schools, who cannot get tutoring for a seventh term examination.

As forecast in *The Times* last week, the current Cambridge Colleges' Examination, taken in November in the fourth or seventh term of the sixth form, is to be abolished. It will be sat for the last time next year and the new examination will be sat in 1987.

It is expected that applicants will not have to state a preference for one college, and will be accepted for entry on the basis of both A levels and the Sixth Term Examination.

50 in A-tests exposed to high radiation level

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Up to 50 people who took part in British nuclear tests during the 1950s were exposed to radiation levels up to five times higher than those which would be permitted for workers in the nuclear industry today.

This was admitted yesterday by Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement. It contrasts with the experience of all the other 20,000 people involved in the tests.

Mr Butler states in a letter which has been circulated to members of Parliament: "All the evidence I have indicates that proper precautions were taken to safeguard the health and safety of those involved in the UKs atmospheric nuclear test programmes, and it is important to note that the standards in use at the time were comparable with those of today."

Mr Butler told journalists that of the 20,000 involved in the tests, 15,000 were not exposed to any radiation levels above those in the natural enviroment. Apart from the 50 or fewer who were exposed to a "planned special exposure level", the remaining 5,000 were exposed to levels comparable with those which people in the United Kingdom experience from normal, enviromental levels during the course of a year.

"What I am saying is that we are confident that the levels of radiation experienced as a result of those tests were comparable with what you get on a normal life basis", Mr Butler said.

His comments and his letters to MPs appear to have been designed to counter press reports that participants in the tests in Australia and on Christmas Island were deliberately exposed to high levels of radiation. They are also clearly designed to set the record straight for the Australian royal commission which is investigating the matter.

The minister said it was a sad truth that in normal life about 25 per cent of men contracted cancer.

A comprehensive study being carried out by the National Radiological Protection Board, which is expected to be completed by late 1986, is comparing the health experience of those involved in the nuclear tests with a cross-section of the population.

Mr Butler said the Government hoped the results of the study would allay fears that there was a correlation between involvement in the nuclear tests and subsequent health problems. If the study revealed results which were different from those of the normal population, then it would have to review its position.

So far no disability or widows' pensions had been allowed on the grounds that a person had been involved in the tests. He dismissed as "reprehensible" suggestions that people had been deliberately exposed to high levels of radiation.

An official Ministry of Defence document says: "In the very few instances of relatively high exposure, eg In situations involving the acquisition of important data, judgement of the operational need was exercised at the highest levels. It must be emphasized that these were exceptional cases, fewer than 50 individuals were concerned, and they were all aware that they were still incurring additional risks. Even in these cases the exposure was still within the upper limits of the planned special exposure level".

An official said that these levels were about five times that which would be permitted for "radiation" workers today, but had been set on advice from the Medical Research Council.



Funeral march: A guard-of honour preceding the coffin of Marshal Pavel Kutakhov, the Soviet Air Force chief, at his funeral in Moscow's Novodyevichi cemetery yesterday. The ceremony was attended by all Russia's top brass except Marshal Ustinov, the Defence Minister.

Tory MEPs revolt over acid rain

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Conservative members of the European Parliament are courting the Prime Minister's wrath by ranging themselves for the first time with majority opinion in the European Community in outright opposition to British Government policy.

At a private meeting in Brussels on Wednesday the Tory MEPs decided not merely to join but to put themselves at the head of the great majority of MEPs, of all parties and countries, who are hostile to the British Government position on acid rain and the pollution of Continental forests and waters.

They are to table a motion for debate in the Strasbourg parliament on Thursday which will call on member governments to withdraw their more extreme objections to the draft EEC directive on pollution, which was discussed by environment ministers yesterday.

The British representative, Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment, was under instructions to veto the draft as contrary to British national interests. Members of the Conservative group therefore recognize, and are content, that their move will be taken both at Strasbourg and in Downing Street as aimed at Britain alone.

The group's decision, taken with about 30 of the 45 British members present was unanimous. Although one or two participants yesterday showed signs of cold feet, the group as a whole appeared to be in a new mood of resolve to defy the Prime Minister in defence of what they believe to be Britain's best interests.

They argue that the acid rain directive, which the British Government considers too costly to implement, is overwhelmingly popular in other member countries, and that the Government's opposition to it will do Britain grave damage, in particular with West German public and political opinion.

Further, they believe they have the tacit support of Mr Waldegrave, of his chief, Mr Patrick Jenkin, of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and a majority of the Cabinet. Opposition in the Cabinet comes from Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, who fears that anti-pollution measures will increase electricity costs, and from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who supports him.

The Tory MEPs recognize that their open opposition to the British Government may encourage the Council of Ministers to override the British veto by a majority vote. If that occurs, the Prime Minister's anger is likely to be as fierce as when the Council of Agricultural Ministers overrode Mr Walkers veto to approve the 1982 farm price settlement by majority vote, the first time the so-called Luxembourg compromise was broken.

BRUSSELS: Unleaded petrol ought to go on sale throughout the EEC by 1989, the environment ministers agreed at their meeting (Ian Murray writes). But there were many technical objections to be sorted out before an EEC directive could be brought into force.

West Germany, which has been forcing the pace to bring in strict controls on car-exhaust gases, was trying to make all other EEC countries agree to similar limits. France accepted this view.

Britain, while in favour of making unleaded petrol widely available, argued against a control of emission standards

Nevertheless, it was agreed that the time had come to consent to Community-wide standards for putting unleaded petrol on sale.

Thorn fears, page 8

The Bhopal disaster

Lethal chemicals recall World War 1 horror

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The fatal victims of the disaster in India suffered the same agonizing deaths as soldiers in World War One, when chemical weapons were first used, it emerged yesterday. In Bhopal, the chemicals that formed a lethal cloud of gas were direct descendants of the gases which caused massive casualties at Ypres and other battlefields 70 years ago.

One of them was phosgene, which killed a worker at the Bhopal plant in a leakage three years ago. Phosgene is used with methyl isocyanate in the manufacture of pesticides such as Sevin, the factory's main product.

Medical experts who have little knowledge of the effects of methyl isocyanate – because there have been few accidents and no known fatalities – were referring to history books yesterday to explain the horrifying effects of the chemicals and how survivors can be treated.

In the United States three weeks ago, 30 schoolchildren and a teacher were affected by a leak of methyl Isecyanate (MIC) at a factory in Middleport, New York State.

There were no serious injuries in the leak of 30 gallons of MIC from the plant. The children were treated for temporary eye irritations.

One of the aspects being examined in the Indian tragedy yesterday was whether MIC alone was responsible for the thousands of casualties, or whether it was a mixture of the chemical and phosgene.

Dr John Henry, a consultant physician, of the National Poisons Information Centre in London, said fatal victims of MIC poisoning would suffer pulmonary edema, a condition which includes drowning in fluids created in the lungs.

But complete recovery was possible and blindness, another common symptom among the survivors at Bhopal, would not be permanent, he said. "The effects of this chemical, and phosgene if it was also involved, are very similar to those of the chemical weapons used during the Great War", he said.

Although there are no known previous fatalities from MIC, an experiment using human volunteers was conducted in 1974. Dr Henry described it yesterday.

The experiment was conducted by Dr Georg Semmerle in Germany on three volunteers and himself. They were exposed to varying concentrations of MIC for periods ranging from one to five minutes. At a level of 21 parts per million unbearable irritation was caused to the eyes, ears, nose and throat in minimum time. The safety standard for MIC in Britain and America is 0.02 parts per million.

The lethal level of methyl isocyanate is said to be two parts per million. On April 22, 1915, 498 tons of chlorine was released by the Germans from 20,730 cylinders at Ypres and caused more than 7,000 casualties, the majority of them alleged to be fatal.

Paper says gas tank workers were unskilled

Delhi (NYT) – A manager at the American-owned pesticide plant in Genior, Bhopal said the accident had occurred while the outside of the storage tank was being cleaned by unskilled workers, the *Hindustan Times* reported.

Dr Nily Chaudhuri, the chairman of the Central Water and Air Pollution Board, said in Delhi on Wednesday that he could not confirm or deny the report. Because of the sencitive nature of the installation, Dr Chaudhuri said, entrusting the job to unsupervised, unskilled people would be like "having an atom bomb and asking kids to play with it."

In Bhopal, Mr V. P. Sathe, the Minister for Petroleum and Chemiclas, said that on Sunday night an operator noticed a sudden rise in temperature in the tank in which the lethal chemical was stored and tried to regulate the flow of gas. But by that time, he said, a device that renders if harmless before release into the air had failed and the gas was escaping.

Insurance cover may fall short of victims' claims

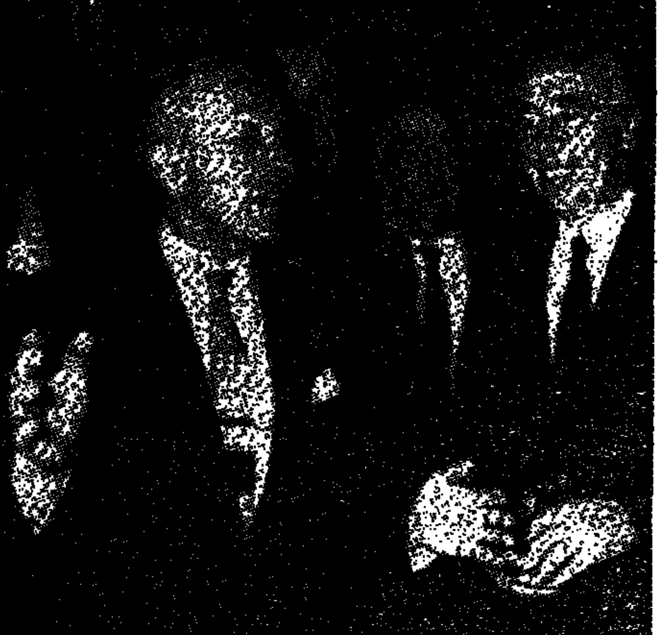
By Richard Thomson

There were fears yesterday that Union Carbide's liability insurance cover may not be enough to meet the full cost of claims resulting from the tragedy at its plant at Bhopal.

American insurance brokers believed that if the Indian Government, on behalf of the 2,000 dead and more than 50,000 injured from the accident, files compensation claims in the US as well as in India, the compay's liabilities will soar.

If the company's insurance cover is exceeded, Union Carbide will have to pay the excess.

The company has a worldwide liability cover in US markets. One of the lead insurers is American International Group with a potential liability, before reinsurance, of US$15 million (£12.5 million). Among UK companies with significant US operations, Royal Insurance, has an exposure to Union Carbide's policy of around US$0.5m



Paris present: Mr Shirnon Peres (right) smiling as Mr Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, speaks during presentation of an atlas to Israel's Prime Minister at a reception for the French and British Jewish communities

Bishops of Poland chart course

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Poland's 80 bishops yesterday met in closed session for crucial talks charting the medium-term future of relations with the communist authorities and to listen to a briefing by Cardinal Josef Glemp, the Primate about his meetings with the Pope last week.

Some bishops have been wanting a criticial review of Church-state relations since the murder on October 19 of the radical priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, but sources close to the Primate say there is unlikely to be any important shift in the Church's course.

The episcopate will try to extend its protection of those parish priests who feel they are under fire from the authorities. the latest case came to light, yesterday, when Father Jan Uminski, a pro-Soldarity priest, said he suffered a heart attack after a 15-hour police interrogation. But at the same time the episcopate will demand self-discipline of all parish priests, emphasizing that they should not resort to political abuse in the pulpit.

The Pope appears to support this more cautious line at least until the smoke has cleared arouund the circumstances of Father Popieluszko's murder. Although the Church leadership approves of the relative candour of the authorities on the affair, it is withholding judgement until the Government names the true political masterminds behind the crime.

Many Polish bishops share the views of the Vatican official Cardinal Salvatore Papalardo, that Father Popieluszko could be beautified.

CIA let off hook over war manual

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington

The Reagan Administration, and in particular Mr William Casey, Director of the CIA, have been let off the hook by the House intelligence committee, which has just completed a two-month inquiry into the agency's role in publishing a guerrilla manual for Nicaraguan rebels.

The Committee ruled that although the manual was illegal, embarrassing and proof of the CIA's lack of control over the covert war in Nicaragua, no disciplinary action should be taken because its production was due to negligence rather than to any attempt to violate the law.

It contained instructions on selective use of violence to "neutralize" Nicaraguan government officials, and gave advice on blackmail and kidnapping. The committee said it was repugnant

Congress has voted to cut off money for CIA covert operations in Nicaragua.

Goldwater astounds Pentagon with MX and cash proposals

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Senator Barry Goldwater, an outspoken conservative and chairman-designate of the Senate armed services committee, has astounded the White House and the Pentagon by advocating a freeze on military spending and the scrapping of the MX missile.

His controversial proposals, made in an interview with the *Washington Post*, were made as President Reagan is seeking further ways to reduce the 1986 budget by $42 billion as a first step towards halving the record federal deficit to about $100 billion by 1988.

The former Republican presidential candidate from Arizona, who is aged 75 and plans to retire from the Senate in two years, vowed to use his chairmanship of the committee to support the military wherever possible.

He did say, however, that he wanted to see the Pentagon staff of 22,000 reduced and to rein-in defence contractors who until now "pretty much wrote their own ticket".

Senator Goldwater, who is to succeed Senator John Tower of Texas as committee chairman, said he believed the 10-warhead MX missile, which is at the centre of the Reagan Administration's strategic modernization programme, was unnecessary and that Congress was anyway likely to kill the MX programme in its next session.

In a remark which is certain to annoy Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, he also said the Pentagon should not be exempted from the curbs on spending that other departments are having to face.

Mr Weinberger, who is overseas at present, has said defence spending should rise from $293 billion in the 1985 financial year to $334 billion in 1986. President Reagan is under increasing pressure to slow the rate of increase in defence spending as part of an overall programme to reduce the deficit.

Mr David Stockman, the President's budget director, has said that about $8 billion could be saved next year by slowing the pace of military growth. This, together with cuts of $34 billion in non-military spending, would enable President Reagan to achieve his goal of cutting $42 billion from next year's budget.

Meanwhile the President has confirmed that Mr Paul Nitze, the veteran arms negotiator, will serve as adviser to Mr Geogre Shultz, the Secretary of State, at next month's arms negotiailons in Geneva with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The appointment opens the way for Mr Nitze, who led the American delegation at the stalled talks on intermediate-range missiles, to become the negotiator if the Soviet Union agrees to the US proposal for a permanent "umbrella" forum for arms control issues.

Mr Shultz will also be accompanied by senior representatives from the rival Pentagon and State Department factions at the Geneva talks.

Egypt hints at readiness for summit

From Christopher Walker
Cairo

Secret contacts are understood to have taken place between Israel and Egypt to prepare for a summit meeting next year between President Mubarak and Mr Shikon Peres, who suggested the idea after being appointed Prime Minister of Israel's National Unity Government.

Egypt stated publicly yesterday, for the first time, that it had "no objections" to the summit plan, but stressed that more groundwork was needed before a date could be set. It is expected to be convened on the Israeli-Egyptian border.

The improvement in Israeli-Egyptian relations since last summer's Israeli elections was underlined here by Mr Esmat Abdul Meguid, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, at his first press conference since being appointed last July.

In the wake of King Husain's state visit to Cairo, the conference was seen as further evidence of Egypt's determination to emerge from its recent isolation to adopt a central role in Middle East diplomacy.

Welcoming this week's official visit to Paris by Mr Peres, the first by an Israeli Prime Minister for many years, Mr Meguid said: "We have seen from Mr Peres some encouraging signs towards the peace process."

He added that the new Labour Prime Minister had approached Egypt "with a new spirit which is certainly appreciated".

Mr Meguid cited Israel's declared intention of withdrawing from Lebanon as one reason for the recent thaw in Egyptian-Israeli relations. He also disclosed that "an answer" was expected soon on an Egyptian request for the long-running dispute with Israel over the coastal strip at Taba on the Red sea to be referred to arbitration.

The Foreign Minister's conciliatory remarks towards the Israeli leader were seen as representing Egypt's determination to act as a bridge between Arabs and Jews.

● NAQOURA: Talks on ending Israel's occupation of south Lebanon entered their eighth round here yesterday as Lebanon's Cabinet met to discuss a stalled plan to move the Army south of Beirut (Reuter reports).

A Lebanese military source said Lebanon hoped Israel would give a positive reply to a proposal that the Lebanese Army, supported in part by UN forces, should take responsiblity for security throughout south Lebanon.

● RIYADH: Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, and Saudi Defence Minister, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, held talks here yesterday on United States military assistance for Saudi Arabia, official sources said (AFP reports).

Jordan's peace, page 12

Madrid date for Rock reopening

Spain foresees opening the frontier with Gibraltar, permitting the free passage of people and goods, between February 8 and 15, according to a Foreign Ministry official in Madrid.

In London, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in a Commons writen answer that the Spanish enclaves on the north African coast, Ceuta and Melilla, were considered as part of Spain by all parties involved in the negotiations over Spain joining the EEC.

His questioner, Mr John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist MP for Strangford, said this meant the enclave residents would have voting rights in the next European polls, a fact which would be resented by British citizens in Gibraltar, who were still denied the right to vote in the elections.

Lambsdorff on new charge

Bonn – The trial of Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the former West German Economics Minister, on charges of corruption could be postponed because of a new charge of tax evasion that the Bonn public prosecutor intends to bring, legal experts said (Michael Binyon writes).

The trial was set for January 10, when the count, his predecessor as economics minister and a former Flick manager were to face charges arising out of a favourable tax ruling for the Flick company.

Kashmir city under curfew

Delhi, (Reuter) – A curfew was imposed for a time yesterday on Jammu, the winter capital of the north Indian border state of Jammu and Kashmir, after violence in which one person was stabbed to death, the Press Trust of India reported.

Police said the incident triggered communal violence elsewhere in the mainly Hindu city.

Appeal fails

Canberra (Reuter) – Australia's most wanted man, Robert Trimbole, who is to face charges of murder, drug smuggling and forgery, yesterday had his appeal against extradition from Ireland rejected by unanimous decision of the Australian High Court.

Border killing

Vienna – Yugoslav border guards shot dead a Romanian attempting to escape into southern Austria last week, according to the daily newspaper *Delo*.

Marcos back

Manila (AP) – President Marcos of the Philippines will meet his Cabinet tomorrow for the first time since he became ill, the palace said.

Death camp visit for police cadets

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

All police cadets in Berlin will be obliged to visit a former concentration camp as part of their training and education, a police spokesman said.

The decision follows the conviction of two cadets for baiting a Jewish colleague and inciting racial hatred during training at the Ruhleden academy in 1982. At the suggestion of their superiors they gave up their training. The two men, now aged 20, were also found guilty of possessing banned extreme right-wing pamphlets.

On Tuesday a Berlin court imposed on them fines of DM1,200 (£325) and DM400 and ordered them to visit the sites in Berlin of resistance to the Nazis, including the memorial to the July plotters against Hitler and the place where some of the plotters were hanged.

The magistrate said the spreading of contempt for sections of the population was the breeding ground for atrocities such as those perpetrated against the Jew.

A Berlin spokesman said the budget for cadet training was to be increased to pay for the obligatory visits to former concentration camps.

● KOHL REMEMBERS: Chancellor Helmut Kohl will speak at a service in spring commemorating the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp (AP reports).

Tamil insurgents accused of burning 17 people alive on bus

Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka (AP) – Armed Tamil rebels fighting for an independent state here in northern Sri Lanka burnt 17 people alive in a bus at Cheddikulam, government officials said yesterday.

They said the bus from Mannar, a north-west coastal town, to Anaradhapura was stopped by a group of rebels who ordered Tamil passengers out and set fire to the vehicle with 16 Sinhalese and one Muslim inside.

Officials here were fearful that the attack might spark off communal violence which the government has consistently maintained is the rebels' aim.

The Tamils are allegedly supported by training and operational bases in Tamil Nady state in South India. The bus burning incident brought the death toll to nearly 100.

"The terrorists kill Sinhalese civilians in the hope of prov k-ing ethnic violence against the Tamils in the predominantly Sinhalese south. They kill Tamils to make propaganda in Madras saying, 'See what the Sinhalese army does'," Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, the Minister for Security said at a press briefing.

The bus burning at Cheddikulam was a clear ethnic attack and the Sri Lankan media have blacked out the incident in the interest of preventing ethnic violence.

The bus had left Mannar, where a guerrilla land mine killed one soldier and injured six others on Tuesday, triggering fighting in which the Government said 32 "terrorists" were killed.

But residents of Mannar claim the Army went on a reprisal rampage after the booby-trapping of a military convoy, killing dozens of innocent people. Government officials said more than 80 bodies have been recovered from the Mannar area since the land mine blast.

● JAFFNA HIJACKS: Three armed youths yesterday hijacked the car of the Government Agent of Jaffna, Mr Muttiah Panchalingam, and kidnapped his driver while he was travelling from Jaffna to Manipay two miles away (Donovan Moldrich writes).

In other incidents in Jaffna, rebels hijacked a Ceylon Petroleum Corporation refuelling lorry carrying 1.500 gallons of diesel oil and raided the Jaffna Post Office, where they removed five telex machines

The lorry was later found abandoned after the diesel oil had been drained out. Sales of fuel in the Jaffna area are restricted to cut down on the rebels' mobility.

Australian outlook: Part 3

New priorities stir up the immigration debate

*In the last of three articles on Australia, **Alan Hamilton**, who covered last week's general election, discusses the changing pattern of migration to a once overwhelmingly Anglo-Saxon society.*

Professor Geoffrey Blainey, a distinguished historian at Melbourne University, stirred up a hornet's nest earlier this year when he suggested in an address to a local Rotary Club that Australia was letting in too many Asian immigrants.

Supporters of a white Australia rushed to agree with him, while a substantial body of alternative opinion branded him a racist. The debate smoulders on.

Certainly the traditional pattern of migration, which heavily favoured residents of the British Isles, has been dramatically reversed: in 1983-84, 26,000 Asians were admitted to the land of the sun and the stubbies, compared with only 13,000 British and Irish.

The change is explained not so much by a conscious policy of Asianization as by a drastic cut in the "skilled worker" category of immigrants in the last 18 months because of Australia's own high unemployment. Added to that is the Government's policy of allowing in the immediate families of those Indo-Chinese refugees who found sanctuary in the wake of the Vietnam War.

But there is another, less publicized factor. The fact is that Britons are just not as interested in emigrating to Australia as they once were. Department of Immigration officials report that, whereas there were more than 130,000 migration applications to Australia House in London in 1980-81, in the first nine months of the last financial year there were a mere 13,000.

The drop is attributed to widespread publicity in Britain in the last two years about Australia's own recession – now showing signs of improvement – and to stories like that of the steelworkers, recruited in Britain by the Australian company Broken Hill Proprietary, who were sacked after only nine months in the sun.

Some Australian liberals dream of creating the world's first truly multiracial society but, despite the undertones of Professor Blainey's remarks, that day is a long way off. In the last year, Europeans of all nationalities accounted for 45 per cent of all immigrants to Australia and are still the biggest single category by far. The number of first-generation British Isles migrants now living in the country is estimated at 1.1 million.

The last national survey of ethnic origins, in 1978, showed three-quarters of the population to be of British Isles stock, 8 per cent Southern European, 4 per cent East European, and only 1 per cent Asian. Projections for the year 2008 put Asians at between 4 per cent and 6 per cent, but the Poms still at well over two-thirds.

By comparision the census of 1891 showed 87 per cent of the population to be British. The only other substantial category were Germans, at 4 per cent.

Today the nature of Australian society is still largely determined by immigration. The 1981 census showed that, out of a population of 15 million, three million had been born elsewhere with the largest single percentage coming from Britain, although with significant numbers from such unlikely quarters as Malta, Poland, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt.

It is the changed priority of categories which has caused this year's immigration debate. Only two years ago the number of migrants admitted to the country under the headings of "labour" or "business" was more than 50,000, some 90 per cent of the total. In the last year it has dropped to little over 10,000.

Opposition parties in the federal government complained bitterly at the lack of consultation on such an apparently major change of policy, and criticized the Hawke Government for taking advice from the Australian trade union movement and no one else.



Professor Blainey: Accused of being a racist.

The impression gained by walking the streets of Australia's leading cities is not of an influx of Asians – apart from the milling hordes of Japanese tourists – but of Southern Europeans. Italian cab drivers and waiters are everywhere, and Melbourne is said to be the third biggest Greek-speaking city in the world after Athens and Salonika.

Could it be that the spread of an emotional Latin influence is responsible for the recent spate of prominent Australians bursting into tears?

Concluded



The changing face of Melbourne: Greek restaurants in the suburb of Carlton and (right) the city's Vietnamese area of Richmond.

European gunmen kill nine Kanaks

From Alan Hamilton, Noumea

Nine people have been killed and three seriously wounded in a night ambush at the remote New Caledonia village of Hienghene, 300 miles from the capital.

The dead and injured were all Melanesians, members of Kanak community which is agitating for independence from France. Two of those killed were brothers of M Jean-Pierre Tjibaou, the self-proclaimed president and figurehead of the independence movement.

French security forces immediately flew into the village in helicopters and evacuated 51 civilians. More than 100 gendarmes are combing the area for clues and suspects.

M Tjibaou said yesterday that the Kanaks had been returning home in two cars from a meeting at a village hall when they were stopped by a road block set up by Europeans. Dynamite was thrown into one car and the men were shot as they tried to escape.

Pro-government sources disputed this version, and claimed the Kanaks had been attacked after setting fire to the houses of two French settlers.

A Government spokesman said that the badly burned body of a man had been found in one of the cars, riddled with bullets.

M Edgard Pisani, the French Government commissioner charged with solving the independence dispute, said yesterday that despite the incident the security situation in the island was returning to normal.

Seventeen Kanaks, arrested during disturbances when they boycotted the local elections on Nov 18, have been released.

Dissident defends his thesis

From Dessa Trevisan Belgrade

The trial of six Yugoslav intellectuals charged with anti-state conspiracy resumed yesterday after a two-week break, with one of the defendants, Milan Nikolic, rejecting additional charges and refusing to answer any more questions because his integrity did not permit him to take further part.

Earlier, the Public Prosecutor additionally charged Mr Nikolic with engaging in hostile activities in connection with two manuscripts found in his flat. One was published last year in the *New Left Review* by an English author who sent the manuscripts for Mr Nikolic's comments.

Ridiculing the charge, Mr Nikolie said dozens of institutions in Yugoslavia were receiving the review, including libraries of the Communist Party. Therefore all those who had read the allegedly incriminating article should share the defendants' bench.

The second additional charge related to Mr Nikolic's thesis on the conflicts in Yugoslavia, prepared for his master's degree at Brandeis University.

As the prosecutor presented it as evidence that he was calling on Yugoslav workers to rise against the regime, Mr Nikolic said: "How can I call upon Yugoslav workers to rise when the thesis is written in the English language?"

Muldoon is ordered out of debate

From Our Correspondent Wellington

Sir Robert Muldoon, who was voted out of the leadership of the Opposition National Party last week, last night was ordered from the parliamentary chamber for calling Mr John Terris, the chairman of committees, an incompetent and unfrocked priest.

Sir Robert, a former Prime Minister, precipitated a furious debate by labelling Mr Chris Laidlaw, the Government's adviser on Commonwealth affairs, a traitor. Mr Laidlaw is a former foreign service officer and was a deputy to Mr Sonny Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Sir Robert said: "My impression was what he did was prepare ammunition for the Secretary-General to fire to hurt his own country. I'm talking about the question of our relationship with South Africa and our relationship with Africa generally, and I have to tell you I regarded him as a traitor to New Zealand".

In the ensuing furore Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, said the remarks were an indictmet of Sir Robert's character, mentality and judgement. When the chair failed to respond to demands that the Prime Minister withdraw his comment, Sir Robert turned on the chairman. He was ordered from the chamber and the Sergeant at Arms summoned.

Key wage agreements bring relief for Lange

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

The New Zealand Government dropped safely off the high wire of its wages act yesterday when employers and unions in several key industries settled on increases of between six and seven per cent.

The agreements, covering metal and electrical workers and drivers, are the first for more than two and a half years under the wage bargaining principle, and set trends likely to be followed in succeeding negotiations.

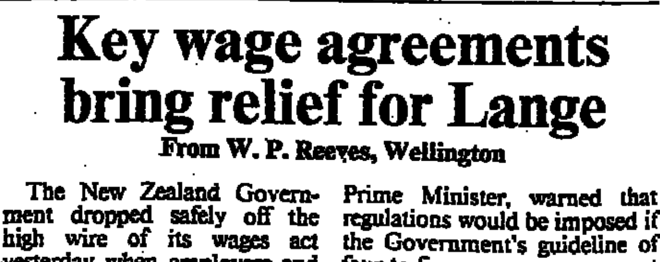
The new rates are acceptable to the Government. It wanted a lower figure, but, given that some unions have been asking for 20 per cent and a declaration by the Federation of Labour that its bottom line was 9.6 per cent, the Government can feel some relief at the outcome.

As negotiations started again this week, Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, warned that regulations would be imposed if the Government's guideline of four to five per cent were put at risk.

In another development, Mr Lange yesterday announced what he described as a "tough policy" for sports people visiting New Zealand on South African passports. Entry would be denied unless they declared that they were not representing South Africa.

The sporting organization involved in New Zealand would also have to give an undertaking that the South African would not be considered in any way to be representing that country.

The first test of the policy is likely to come in the reaction of South African tennis players expected to enter the New Zealand Open championships next month.



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ebate

more than 50,000, ... cent of the total. In the ... year it has dropped ... over 10,000.

Opposition parties ... federal government complain bitterly at the lack of consultation on such an apparent major change of policy, criticized the Hawke Government for taking advice from Australian trade union movement and no one else.



Professor Blainey: Accused of being a racist

The impression gained walking the streets of ... lia's leading cities is not the influx of Asians ... the milling hordes of ... tourists ... but of ... Europeans. Italian cab drivers and waiters are everywhere and Melbourne is said to be third biggest Greek-speaking city in the world after Athens and Salonika.

Could it be that the ... an emotional Latin influence responsible for the recent ... of prominent Australians ... ing into tears?

Concluded

n gunmen
Kanaks

Muldoon is ordered out of debate

agreements ... for Lange

Catholic bishops assail police conduct in South African townships

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The Catholic Church in Southern Africa yesterday issued a powerful and well-documented denunciation of police conduct in countering unrest in African townships around Johannesburg since August.

The 38-page report declares that police behaviour "resembled that of an occupying foreign army controlling enemy territory by force without regard for the civilian population and, it appears, without regard for the law."

It was released at a press conference in Pretoria chaired by the Most Reverend Denis Hurley, Archbishop of Durban and president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Archbishop Hurley said the report was based on affidavits and statements from between 40 and 50 people who had sufferd from, or been witnesses of, police brutality.

He was satisfied that in the overwhelming majority of cases police attacks had been unprovoked.

The Archbishop faces trial in February under the Police Act for remarks at a press conference in February 1983 accusing police of atrocities against civilians. He said great care had been taken in compiling the report on township unrest, to ensure that it did not infringe the Police Act.

The report alleges indiscriminate use of firearms, including rubber bullets, birdshot and convetional bullets. It estimates that 150 people have been killed in disturbances in townships on the Reef, and attributes the great majority to police action. The police admit having killed more than 90 people.

In an appendix to the report, a doctor says that rubber bullets can kill at close range.

The report suggests that the use of rubber bullets, though intended to reduce the number killed, may have encouraged police to feel they have an open licence to shoot in the belief that such ammunition can do no serious harm.

A common allegation is that during assaults the police laughed and appeared to regard what they were doing as "a kind of sport". Both back and white policemen were involved in acts of volence

"A kind of state of war is developing between the police and the people," Archbishop Hurley said. Instead of being guardians of law and order, police were promoters of unrest and disturbance.

"They seem to be in a mood which inspires them to say: 'The people are our enemy, and we are out to impose our will upon them by any means that we find effective.' " he declared.

Soweto leader killed

Soweto (AFP) – Edward Manyosi, the chairman of Soweto's municipal council, was killed in an ambush just hours before he was expected to be elected mayor of this black township on the outskirts of Johannesburgh.

Police said a car carrying several people blocked Mr Manyosi's vehicle as he drove late on Wednesday through Soweto and an unidentified man in the car shot him twice, once in the head.

The South African press agency SAPA said Mr Manyosi was killed shortly after leaving a municipal council meeting during which some of the councillors decided to elect him mayor during a vote due to be held yesterday. He would have replaced Soweto's controversial current mayor, Mr Aphraim Tshabalala.

Mr Manyosi, considered the current mayor's main political rival, had appeared his most likely successor following a stormy municipal council meeting last week



Riding to rescue: Safety workers board a trolly to search for 61 men trapped 8,250ft deep in the Haishan Iken coal mine, south-west of Taipei. Thirty-three other bodies were recovered after an explosion on Wednesday.

Red Cross doubles aid appeal

Geneva (AP) – The International Red Cross, doubling last year's appeal for aid, yesterday asked members to give 165 million Swiss francs (£53 million) next year as an "emergency lifeline" to Africa.

The Geneva-based League of National Red Cross Societies said that SFr128 million was needed immediately to provide food and supplies to famine victims in 14 countries, Ethiopia, Chad, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Burkina Faso, and Cape Verde.

Another SFr37 million was needed to fight famine in the Sahel region, where the situation was "deteriorating fast".

The League said its aid would go to young children and mothers, and said it planned to train 1,000 new volunteers for its African relief programmes.

Thorn fears Greece puts EEC target date beyond reach

From Ian Murray, Brussels

It now seems impossible for Spain and Portugal to join the EEC as planned by the beginning of 1986, according to Mr Gaston Thorn, the outgoing president of the European Commission.

In a very gloomy assessment of the Dublin summit, Mr Thorn said in Brussels that the negotiating calendar was now so tight that the target date seemed out of reach. This was because Greece was not prepared to lift its veto on enlargement until the European summit at the end of next March.

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, said in Dublin that he would only allow the enlargement of the Community to go ahead once he was satisfied with EEC plans – yet to be negotiated – to spend money in the poorer regions of the Mediterranean.

According to Mr Thorn, this will make Spain and Portugal hold out for better terms than the Community is prepared to offer, which in turn will mean that final accession terms cannot be agreed until after March.

Some three months would then be required to complete the necessary legal texts for presentation to the 10 national parliaments, which would all be on holiday by the time the documents were ready.

This would then make it impossible for ratification of the terms to begin before October of next year, leaving only three months at best to complete the process. Community experience has been that a minimum of 10 months is required to clear such a document through all 10 parliaments.

Mr Thorn pointed out that this was the best possible scenario, and would depend on Mr Papandreou being satisfied in his demand for a five or six-year-deal worth up to £1,500 million to Greece alone.

If, as now seems inevitable, the European Parliament next week rejects the Community budget for 1985, there will be absolutely no money available to offer Greece anything.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has made it abundantly clear that she does not believe Greece should be offered anything like the sums it is seeking.

● ATHENS: For Mr Papandreou, the Community's refusal to commit itself to the financing of poorer Mediterranean regions at the level originally endorsed, is an intolerable political setback (Mario Modiano writes).

The Socialist leader had wriggled out of his party's anti-Community platform by arguing that if the EEC accepted the terms set out in the Greek memorandum which sought more financing and longer transition, membership would become a boon.

The Greek memorandum has now vanished into bureaucratic oblivion and the Papandreou Government has fallen back on its next line of defence: the Mediterranean programme satisfies most of the demands of the Greek memorandum

Mr Papandreou qualified his veto by allowing enlargement negotiations to go on but threatening to block it at the March summit if there is no definite commitment on the Mediterranean programme.

● ANKARA: Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, said negoiations on full Turkish membership of the EEC would be difficult but that he would not be deterred from the goal

Steel apology for 'below par' pair

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, apologized yesterday while addressing European Liberals in Brussels for Mrs Thatcher's appointment of two "redundant political nonentities" to Brussels Commission. The choice of "below-par" figures to the EEC's new administration next year showed Mrs Thatcher's low level of commitment to the Community, he said.

They are Mr Stanley Clinton Davis a former junior Labour trade minister, and Lord Cockfield, an ex-Tory Cabinet Minister.

Two vital questions for Greens

From Michael Binyon Bonn

The Greens today begin a congress in Hamburg that may be crucial in deciding whether the five-year-old party, now riding the wave of electoral success in West Germany, is to develop into a real political force here and throughout Europe or is to remain a diffuse protest movement of environmentalists and pacifists.

At issue are two vital questions dividing the party into realists and fundamentalists: Whether the Greens should cooperate with the oppostion Social Democrats, sharing power in state parliaments and preparing for a possible coalition after the 1987 general election; and whether Green *members of Parliament* should resign halfway through their term to make way for others on the "rotation" principle.

The bitter differences in the collective leadership and in the party base have been glossed over in the euphoria following a string of successes in state and local elections which have made the Greens the third political force in West Germany, ahead of the hapless Free Democrats. They now have about 11 per cent of the vote and are represented in six of the 11 state parliaments.

But the recent abrupt abrogation by the Greens in Hesse of their 24-week alliance with the ruling Social Democrats has raised questions about the party's willingness to take on real political responsibility. The Social Democrats who until now have handled the Greens with kid gloves in the hope of enticing them into a loose alliance to outvote the Christian Democrats, are now taking a harder line. They have gone on the offensive in Hesse and are accusing the Greens of irresponsibility and deceiving the idealists who support them.

Under the rotation principle, all 27 members of the Bundestag faction are due to resign in March. This is now opposed by most of the MPs themselves, especially Herr Otto Schily, the former party speaker who has emerged as its most effective and influential MP, on the grounds that it robs the party of its experienced activists

● A Greens spokesman said yesterday that Mr Arthur Scargill, the British miners' leader, had been invited to address the congress. The party recently announced a donation to support miners' families.

M Le Pen: Blames Athens for violence

Right-wing MEPs in junta plea

Athens (AP). – M Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front, and his group of 15 right-wing European Parliament deputies yesterday asked the Greek Government to release the former dictator George Papadopoulos and other leaders of the 1967 military coup from prison.

"We recommend that the Greek Government, respecting the highest traditions of Hellenic civilization, grants freedom *to men who have suffered* excessivly," they said in a communique issued at the end of a four-day meeting in Athens.

The meeting led to demonstrations by more than 1,000 former political prisoners of the disgraced Greek junta and violent clashes between police and extreme leftists that left more than 20 injured and led to hundreds of arrests. M Le Pen claimed at a Press conference yesterday that "the negative stance" of the Greek Socialist Government toward the right-wing MEP had fuelled the violence.

Nineteen cashiered officers are still jailed in Korydallos prison near Athens, serving long sentences for high treason and overthrowing democracy in Greece for seven years. Three have died since the sentencing.

Rome trial order for 197 leftists

Rome – Signor Domenico Pittella, doctor and until recently a Socialist senator, is among 197 left wingers whom the Rome pubic prosecutor has asked, after a long investigation, to be sent for trial on charges of insurrection against the State (John Earle writes).

The former senator, expelled from his party when investigations were opened against him, is already under house arrest awaiting trial for aiding and abetting terrorists because he is alleged to have shetered and treated in his nursing home an injured Red Brigade member, Natalia Ligas.

Malta approves Libya pact

Valletta (Reuter) – Malta's Parliament has approved a friendship and co-operation treaty with Libya which pledges military support if the Mediterranean island is threatened.

A neutrality pact with Italy has been ended, Mr Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister, said.

Opposition defies Zia

Islamabad (AFP) – Opposition leaders in Pakistan yesterday openly defied a threat by President Zia ul-Haq to jail anyone calling for a boycott of his December 19 referendum on proposals to extend Islamic law.

A spokesman for the movement for the restoration of Democracy told foreign reporters that the organization intended to keep up its campaign for a boycott of the vote.

Fishermen freed

Taipei (AP) – The Soviet Union has released a Taiwanese fishing boat and its 14 crew after holding them captive since September, the fishermen's association reported.

Aids death

Bangkok (AP) – Thailand's first victim of the fatal disease Aids, a Thai in his 20s, has died here. He contracted Aids while studying in the United States.

Exercise time

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) – Mr William Schroeder, the mechanical heart recipient, has taken a 12-step walk and may go for wheelchair ride today for a change of scenery, a hospital official said here.

Britons five days adrift after supply ship fire

From Our Correspondent, Dakar

The RMS St Helena, the small passenger and cargo ship which is the main link between the island of St Helena and the outside world, was adrift for five days in the South Atlantic after a serious fire on board.

Now in Dakar, Senegal, the ship is expected to set sail again later today or tomorrow after repairs to the damage caused by the fire which broke out on October 31.

The ship was on its way home to Avonmouth, towards the end of a seven-week round trip, and was about 270 miles south-west of Freetown, Sierra Leone, when the fire started in the engine room at about 10.30pm.

The 31 passengers, most of them British, took to the lifeboats, and these were swung out, but now lowered into the water, while the crew struggled to stop the fire reaching the fuel tanks. When the worst danger was over, they spent the night on deck.

The blaze was brought under control in 24 hours and the disabled ship was fianlly taken in tow by a West German salvage tug; a British tanker, Overseas Argonaut, had also been standing by. The 3,150 ton ship was then towed to Dakar.

One male passenger suffered a heart attack during the excitement. He was flown to England with the rest of the passengers when the ship reached Dakar.

Only two days after the fire, an elderly woman passenger woke up in her cabin under the mistaken impression she was alone on board. She tried to escape through the porthole. But was spotted by a crew member, who grabbed her before she fell.

The managers of the RMS St Helena, Curnow Shipping of Helston, Cornwell, said yesterday that the vessel was now completing trials at Dakar before sailing for Cape Town, its other regular port of call.

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THE ARTS

Opera: **John Higgins** in Florence

Zeffirelli's majestic vision steals the glory

La traviata
Teatro comunale

Florence began their summer season with a *Rigoletto*, wildly directed by Yuri Lyubimov, that attracted derision and full houses. *La traviata*, opening the winter season this week, has a staging by Franco Zeffirelli of much authority and majesty. Again it was sold out before it started, but this time at curtain-fall the only sound to be heard was of cheering: for the young Italian soprano Cecilia Gasdia, who shamefully has yet to be heard in London; for Carlos Kleiber, making one of his increasingly rare appearances in the pit; and for Zeffirelli himself.

Zeffirelli has lived long with Verdi's *La traviata*, first back in the Callas years and more recently on film. And at Florence Zeffirelli the stage producer borrows quite a lot from Zeffirelli the movie director. During the Act I prelude there is a distant image of Violetta on her death-bed. What follows, such is the implication, are emotions and feelings relived. It may be argued that all this is there already in the score for those with the ears to listen.

But Zeffirelli's opening does make the point that much of *Traviata* is about living under the threat of imminent death. And in the film Violetta is almost suffocated by her surroundings: the draped curtain, the ornate mirrors, the immense tapestries, the chandeliers heavy under their own weight. Zeffirelli the designer has always been half in love with clutter and here he uses it to mighty effect. But Zeffirelli the film director also insists on the occasional close-up, so that for the first moment of intimacy in Act I, "Un dì felice", the scenery vanishes (a bit noisily) so that Violetta and Alfredo are left alone by the fireside.

The same device is used in the next act during Flora's party. One moment the stage is filled with gypsies and toreadors – for once the "Spanish" ballet is performed with real panache – and the next Violetta and Alfredo are alone in their private quarrel.

The core of the production is the difference between social life and private life. The first, for Violetta, is a killer; the second brings a little happiness, especially before the curtain goes up on Act II, a ravishingly designed winter garden in the St Germain-en-Laye house.

Violetta herself is one of Zeffirelli's line of little girls – *Romeo and Juliet*; *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*. Cecilia Gasdia's tiny frame makes her look as much like a Giselle as a Violetta. The long black hair, framing the pallid oval face, is an irresistible reminder of the famous portrait of Marie-Alphonsine Plessis, the original lady of the camelias. Gasdia's own portrait, which looks to have had Zeffirelli's very careful guidance, is far removed from the conventional prima donna. Her Violetta is a frail creature constantly looking for support, whether in the heart-breaking Act I cry "Amami Alfredo" or just the solidity of a piece of furniture to cling to.

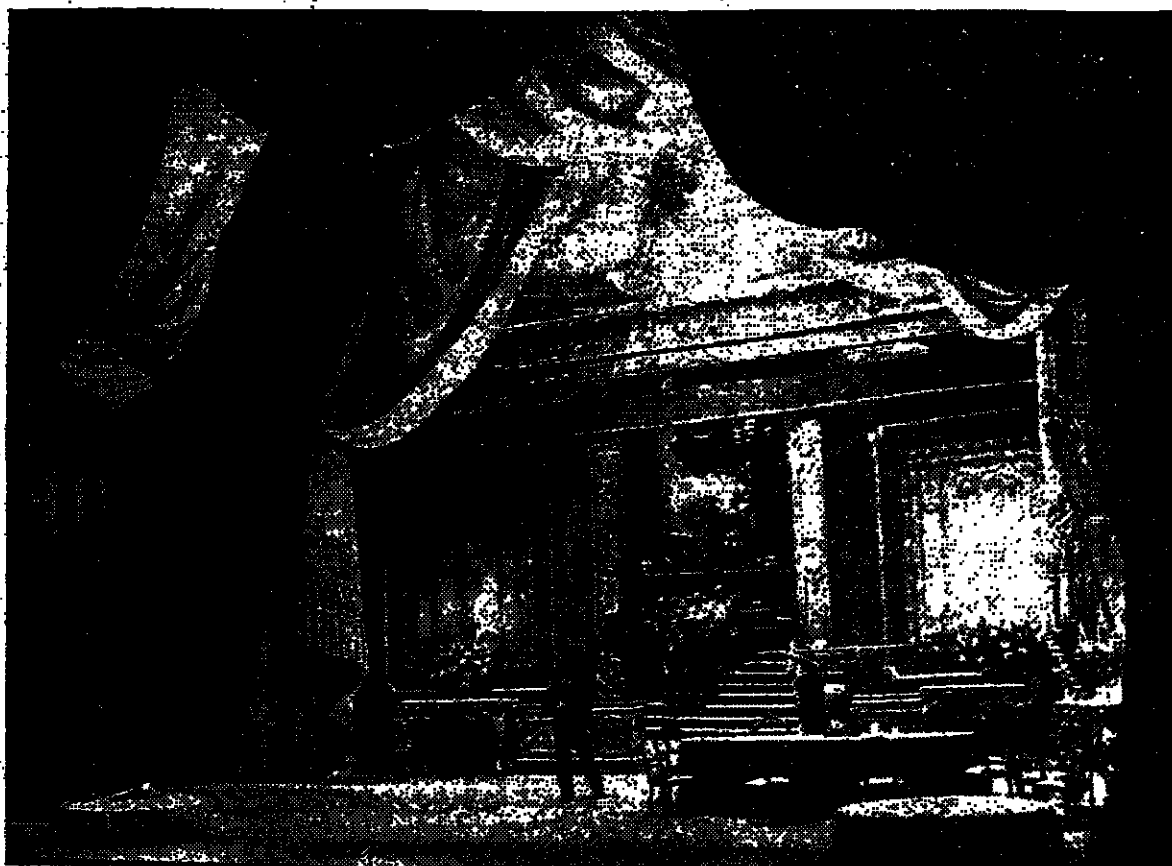
The voice is neither particularly brilliant nor large, although it does cut through the Act II finale. But it is marvellously controlled, especially in the pianissimo passages – "Dite alla giovine" was a model from both conductor and soprano. And it has a colouring that can switch from sorrow to joy in an instant. In this and many other ways Gasdia recalls the young Cotrubas – high praise.

Peter Dvorsky's Alfredo is cut of much rougher cloth. Gasdia would have been better matched with a more highly-strung and lyrical tenor such as Schicoff. Georgio Zancanaro's Germont père on the other hand was a true bastion of bourgeois society and his sense of Verdian legato ensured that "Di Provenza" received an ovation. But many of the supporting roles were weakly cast.

Carlos Kleiber demanded at times a diaphonous sound which the Florence strings were not always able to provide. He aimed at a nervous refinement in which nothing was overstated. It is remarkable to have heard in a week two opera house performances – the first Solti at Covent Garden, now Kleiber in Florence – in which magical effects have been obtained through total restraint.

Thanks to the Kleiber-Gasdia-Zeffirelli combination Florence may this week have stolen a little operatic glory before La Scala opens tonight with *Carmen*. There has never been a shortage of rivalry between the Italian houses.

● It would have been hard to discover the fact in the Florence programme, but this *Traviata* is a co-production with Covent Garden. It comes to London in October 1986 with Carlos Kleiber conducting.



A love of clutter used to spectacular effect in Act III

Television

Explosive whirl

Charles Dance is a contained-looking man and physically impressive. One would like to have him by in an emergency. It was obvious from the opening of BBC1's three-part drama The Secret Servant, which began last night, will continue tonight and conclude tomorrow, that he currently faces a considerable challenge to his sang-froid.

Brian Clemens's adaptation of Gavin Lyall's book, directed by Alastair Reid, had the stock, urgent start that marks these big-deal espionage thrillers, the action too impatient to await the conclusion of the credit titles. Mr Dance, or Major Harry Maxim as we shall know him here – and even the name has an explosive connotation – is one minute racing up a desert dune to see a plane explode, then suddenly, our curiosity roused but deliberately left unsatisfied, we are in a Glasgow hospital with a dying man despatching a letter that is obviously going to bode ill to a Mr Jackaman.

I think we had finished the credits before we saw the recipient, after apologising to his bemused wife for being such an inadequate husband, walk down the garden with his Purdy, conjugating the verb peccare, to blow his head off. It was safe, I thought, to assume that this was not to atone for his marital failings.

It was a whirl throughout: a lecherous nuclear strategist and professor (Dan O'Herlihy), murderous KGB men, smooth Oxbridge intelligence types – all pieces of a jigsaw which we may sort out later, though it does not matter too much in these affairs if we do not.

I feel that the SAS's Major Maxim will sort everybody out. On his way to No 10 to meet the Prime Minister ("Mother Bear", they presumptuously call her), who would ask him to keep an eye on the professor's security – a duty that will involve watching his lechery, too – he dealt with a grenade thrower without even panting.

"Instinct", he modestly told his doubting sidekick Agnes Algar (Jill Meager). I did not much care for her. Too cynical. But I thought the mysterious Czech lady, Zuzana Kind, played by Rom Anderson, promised well in the KGB shoot-out. She and the widowed major seem meant for each other if there are to be survivors.

Rent Boys are young male prostitutes who, apparently, abound in Britains's major cities. Richard Belfield's *Forty Minutes* on BBC2 talked to several of them. The programme held the interest at first and seemed to be going somewhere. Alas, it was in circles.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema

Expensive toys for grown-up infants

Ghostbusters (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

Gremlins (15)
Warner West End

A Christmas Carol (U)
Classics Haymarket, Oxford Street

In less than half a year, Ghostbusters and Gremlins have together earned something between three and a half and four hundred million dollars in America alone. That may be no more than a tiny percentage of the gross national expenditure or even the defence budget; but it is money on a scale that few of us can begin to comprehend.

What makes the phenomenon interesting is that the films in question, far from being extraordinary, innovatory or in any way elevating to the imagination, are banal, foolish and mechanical. They are costly and calculated industrial products, garish plastic toys for the grown-up infants who (to judge only from this box-office success) constitute the main population of our English-speaking world.

Their conception and characters are those of comic strip. Their subjects are elemental notions of alien invaders from other worlds. Their scripts dispense with any conventional requirement of dramatic argument or logic. With hindsight, it is possible to attribute their huge success to two elements in the formula. Above all there is the reliance upon special effects. The effects specialists have today become the masters of Hollywood: on the titles of both these films, "Special Visual Effects Unit" credits outnumber the rest, and certainly account for a major proportion of the huge budgets.

Then there is the sly mixing of terror and comedy. Audiences are invited to partake of all the old infantile thrills of horror movies and at the same time to mock with laughter both the style and their own fears. The voluntary regression to a comic-strip stage of intellectual development is excused by the illusion of sophisticated, cynical detachment.

Ghostbusters, for example, is really a comic version of a solemn, silly horror film, *The Sentinel*, directed by Michael Winner: a New York apartment house turns out to be the gateway to an infernal world. The comedy is provided by the team of Bill Murray, who specializes in characters of impervious slobbishness, Dan Ackroyd and Harold Ramis, who also wrote the string of shocking verbal quips that does for a script. Not unreasonably thrown off the university campus, these three set up as professional ghostbusters, and are called on to relieve New York of its supernatural visitations, which include some Disneyland ghosts and a giant Marshmallow Man who stalks the city like a sugar-puff King Kong.

The film's team and director Ivan Reitman, came to the fore with *Animal House*, an early demonstration of their ability to give the public what it wants. Like *Gremlins*, *Ghostbusters* was honoured with a showing at the London Film Festival. On that occasion, a gentle Scandinavian lady in the audience stood up, hurt and near to tears, to ask Mr Reitman if he were not ashamed to use so much money for a film that only tended to degrade the audience. Mr Reitman was so fervently supported by the National Film Theatre audience as a whole that any of us who felt inclined to support the lady were in the event far too cowardly.

Ghostbusters is perhaps preferable to *Gremlins*, which is more calculatedly ingratiating, and not in the same way innocently mindless. When the little creatures who spawn and terrorize a nice middle-American township are bad they are horrid, but when they are good they are very, very good, as cute and cuddly as E.T., and as well conceived to earn further millions in the toy market.



Slavitza Jovan in the chief ghost's most human manifestation in *Ghostbusters*

The society of the little town very self-consciously recalls the world of old Frank Capra films, as does the sweet and wacky family who launch the gremlins when the inventor father brings one home as a pet for his young son. The nasty rich widow bent on having the lad's dog put to sleep is a dead ringer for Margaret Hamilton, who had the same designs on Judy Garland's pup in the *The Wizard of Oz*.

It is because this world is cosily familiar that the invasion of the alien beings is so sinister; and the sinister quality seems a metaphor for the neuroses of the times.

All this may or may not be too great a weight of significance to lay upon this childish tale, which does have its moments of pleasure – like the Gremlins' night at the picture show, singing along with "the Seven Dwarfs. The film was produced by Steven Spielberg, proving once again his ability to predict audience tastes, and directed by Joe Dante, whose earlier pictures of menaced communities were *Piranha* and *The Howling*.

Eisenstein was given to quoting Dickens as an example of cinematic writing. Mostly he was referring to the writer's quality of detailed visualization; but the newest version of *A Christmas Carol* demonstrates more clearly than any previous one what an exemplary all-round screenplay Dickens wrote, fifty years before the cinema existed. The screenwriter, Roger O. Hirson, has sensibly altered very little from the original.

Anyone staging the *Carol* is necessarily committed to the Christmas card scene and landscapes since, after all, they owe their place in the folklore in large part to this very work. Elsewhere though the director Clive Donner has been remarkably successful in ridding the tale of much of 140 years' accretion of sentimentality. He has restored a good deal of the toughness that is inherent in the original; this may well be the first adaptation which has retained the vision of the famine children, Want and Ignorance, and it is presented as dreadfully as it should be.

Much of the toughness comes from the casting of George C. Scott as Scrooge. He is not the wizened eccentric miser that Leech's illustrations tend to make him, but a pillar of capitalism. His position is often rational if not charitable or likeable; and his resistance to reform is quite spirited. Dickens, as the film reminds us, gave him spirit and humour, and some nice one-liners in his encounters with the ghosts.

In other regards the film is admirably faithful to Dickens and Leech in recreating the landscape and figures of the book. Edward Woodward is a marvellously Bacchic Ghost of Christmas Present; David Warner and Roger Rees make Cratchit and Nephew Fred charming without being soppy; and Susannah York is a graceful Mrs Cratchit. Even for the most demanding Dickensian this should be an innocent, old-fashioned Christmas treat.

David Robinson

Theatre

The Desert Air
Other Place, Stratford

Taking off from the history of the Special Operations Executive, Nicholas Wright's play offers a comically high-powered account of how we inadvertently won the war in Yugoslavia through backstairs intrigue in the Secret Service.

The time is 1942, when Britain was supporting the inactive Chetnik resistance army before belatedly switching allegiance to Tito's partisans who went on to liberate Belgrade. Not much of this background is known to the personnel of Dangerous Operations Groundforce (DOG), whose Cairo office resembles a Whitehall club until the arrival of Colonel Gore as its new director.

Marvellously played by Geoffrey Hutchings with an anguished gut overhanging his Sam Browne belt and the neck-thrusts of an angry turkey, Gore – alias Hippo – is an undersized, lower middle-class paranoid empire-builder. Who is winning the Balkans he neither knows nor cares so long as the operation adds another pip to his shoulder. And, after zealously cooking up fictions on behalf of the foot-dragging Chetniks, he conducts an ingenious *volte face*: but only to be cheated by the arrival of a "tall blue-blooded, pointy" young brigadier to lead the mission to Tito.

Hippo's sad story is inset in a crowded picaresque of the British in Cairo. And if the result falls short of farce it is only because Mr Wright understands that army life leaves nothing for any farce writer to add. The opening scene shows Montgomery pausing in mid-briefing to examine a tank. Engines roar, the doors slide open amid clouds of smoke and nothing appears; whereupon warm approval is expressed at this master-stroke of British camouflage.

Elsewhere, the DOG members charge off to conduct conspicuously drilled sleuthing in night clubs, and inspect Yugoslav patriots billeted in an outlying brothel. Hippo speaks for them all in his conspiratorial line: "I will remain in the centre of the yard and simulate normal behaviour."

Hippo's horrendous impact on the former merchant bankers and Cambridge reds who comprise his underlings can be imagined. But in the case of his closest colleague, Pagan, it amounts to outright hatred. Pagan (Peter Eyre) has hitherto lived by the code of gentlemanly honesty; but circumstances now require him to lie.

In Adrian Noble's production the play takes on tremendous panache and progressively splinters staff stereotypes under the weight of human diversity.

Irving Wardle

The Carrier Frequency
ICA

As a writer of best-sellers, Russell Hoban ought to be good box-office, and a collaboration with the Impact Theatre performance art company, whose *Useful Vices* was gripping a couple of years ago, looked promising. But *The Carrier Frequency* is not the sort of stuff to convert Hoban-lovers, or anyone else, to performance art. Thin and repetitive to a degree, it gives almost no scope to Hoban's witty way with the banal verbal detritus of city life, and exhibits his characteristic vein of nonsense-language to the extent of proving it intolerable in the theatre.

After a recorded treble takes us through that psalm about the waters of Babylon, doxology and all, the cast of six arrive and penetrate the plastic sheeting that initially hides the set, from which the unexpected sound of splashing announces their entry into a pool of tears. In the lake sit two pier-like structures and a table, on to which performers repeatedly splash handfuls of water and scrutinize them feverishly. They are not, it seems, seeking North Sea oil but symbolizing the fruitless minutiae of the arms-race conference table. This continues for almost half the show.

Above them, women broadcast insidious propaganda to someone called Ernie in elaborately repetitive gobbledygook. One may lose nuances in 30 minutes of nonsense spoken over heavy music, but there are evident incitements to bash the bastards who dropped the last bomb, larded with flattering references to Ernie's virility and flashes of Hoban humour (the farting fish, I thought, was especially good value).

The climax is reached as three actors dislodge each other from their stations in bellicose frenzy, intensify their scrabbling on the table, fall on their knees in the water for frantic prayer (driving off rival supplicants in an image of religious schism) and carry out each other as corpses from successive cataclysms.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

BBCSO/Pritchard
Festival Hall/Radio 3

To perform such a work as *A Mass of Life* at all adequately now must take an act of musical quixotry such as probably only the BBC could do in association with the Royal Philharmonic Society, as happened on Wednesday. It is not inferior to other major works of Delius, but somewhat more extravagant in orchestral resources, as well as in the emotional fervour derived from the poetry of Nietzsche, whose paganism today is a commonplace, which no Delius music could ever be.

Sir John Pritchard conducted a performance which I would describe as more satisfying than memorable. He exaggerated nothing, certainly not the passion, or the temptation to mock-dramatics.

The opening chorus had the requisite vigour and exuberance, with the BBC Singers and Chorus in responsive voice. But the double fugue of the first dance song demanded altogether stronger entries if it was not to sound redolent of Grecian tunics on a playing field, which the second dance song in the later part of the work perhaps more excusably evokes.

Benjamin Luxon propounded the Nietzschean sentiments with a generally warm assurance once he was past the first exhortation to dance and to laugh, which found him with an unexpected sense of strain. Later his self-questioning thoughtfulness took us with him, even to accepting his calm invitation to contemplate the eternity of death. I am not sure that Alfreda Hodgson heard herself as the incarnation of Life in one of her early contralto entries, but she later joined with Teresa Cahill and Arthur Davies, soprano and tenor, to form a spirited trio.

The conductor made much of the orchestral interludes, with some wonderfully expressive instrumental playing from the BBC Symphony Orchestra that highlighted such details as the beautiful writing for the darker-toned instruments, especially the bass clarinet and cor anglais.

On the other hand, the prelude to Part 2 lacked the poetic feeling in the horn playing, both on stage and off, to be the tone-poem of a mountain dawn.

Noël Goodwin

Music and Revolution
Bloomsbury Theatre

From appearances at Riverside and the Almeida, the group Music and Revolution have now graduated with their educational early Soviet cabaret to an Arts Council Contemporary Music Network tour. This is perhaps their Stalinist phase. The programme is ostensibly much as it was, but the presentation is a whole lot slicker, more ironic. Which is fine for Mayakovsky, caught in the full flight of egotistical hysteria in Teddy Kempner's enactments of the poems.

One may feel, though, that patronizing the material has got out of hand when Prokofiev and Lourie are represented by weak pieces indifferently performed, and killed stone-dead by being prefaced by someone's memoirs of them as stupidly vain young men. It is a bit tactless, too, to sing Alexander Mosolov's nursery pictures and Nikolay Obukhov's ecstatic expostulations with the same amused surprise: Mosolov was indeed an ironist in the tradition of Mussorgsky and Stravinsky, but Obukhov was simply mad, and madness demands a certain respect.

In the second half of their concert Music and Revolution are offering a new piece by Edison Denisov, whose reputation in the West may well be disproportionate. Fifteen years ago he seemed the great hope of Soviet music, but the more recent works I have heard have been disappointing, and *The Blue Notebook* was no exception. Its main delights are all in the words, by two writers of the 1920s, Kharms and Vvedensky: there are macabre funny stories, brilliantly delivered by Grigori Gerenstein, interleaved with songs of a delicate imagery skating over reality.

Bizarreness and fragility are also fitfully qualities of the music, for violin, cello, piano and prepared piano accompanying the soprano (Jane Manning), but there is an awful lot of mumbling shadowy figuration that barely goes beyond setting a dream-like atmosphere. Revolutions should be made of sterner stuff.

Paul Griffiths

WNO in London

The Greek Passion
Dominion

Martinu's *The Greek Passion* is an improving opera, full of stirring effects and noble sentiments. The composer worked long and hard on it, completing the last of several revisions in 1959, but he did not live to see its première in 1961. He adapted the libretto himself from a translation of Kazantzakis's novel *Christ Recrucified*.

The story of Greek villagers taken over by and in the end destroyed by the roles they have been allotted in their annual Passion play is a powerful one full of parallels for those who might try to identify latter-day Christs and Judases.

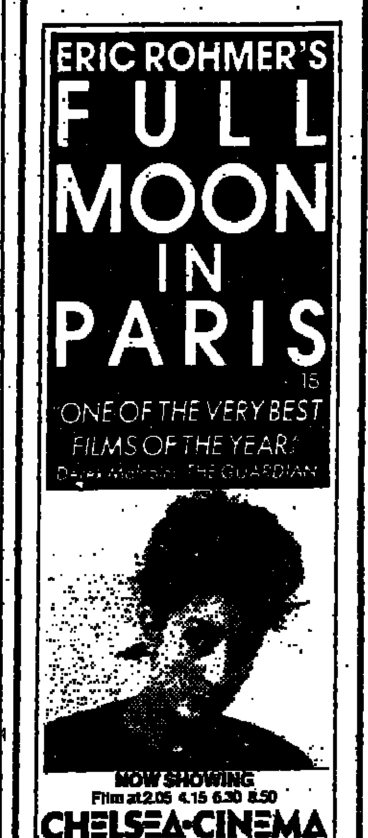
But the blandness of the music finally destroys the strength of the subject. There are enough sonorous choruses for several oratorios, but the soloists lack really memorable music. The orchestral interludes are effective and were here splendidly played under Anthony Negus.

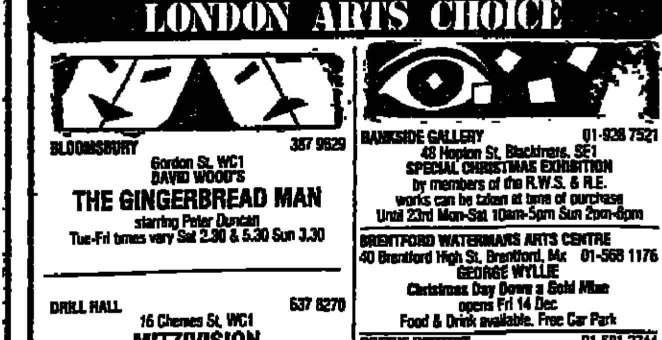
The opera can work as pure spectacle. This Welsh National Opera production, first seen in 1981, is the only one on this country. In the United States, the School of Music at Indiana University mounted it in 1981 and brought it to the Met in a production which went in for massive vistas of the Greek village and crowd upon crowd of villagers and refugees.

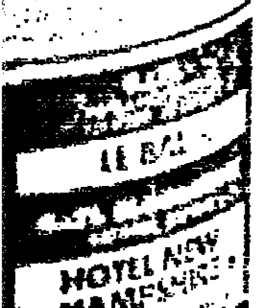
WNO's resources are more modest, and it was a tribute to Michael Geliot's direction that the story came across so strongly; the central characterizations are well drawn, from Jeffrey Lawton's beefy yet innocent Manolios, the Christ figure, to Phyllis Cannan's typically searing, clear Katerina, the Mary Magdalene figure. Among the rest John Tranter's Grigoris is a vividly nasty piece of work as the local priest and dictator and, in the final tragedy, Anthony Mee's Judas figure seems to stab Manolios in a crazed quest for the approval of his masters.

The strongest sections are the first and last acts; the central scenes are too bitty and (here at least) too strung out with pauses. But the opera continuously looks interesting, thanks to John Gunter's designs and the distraction of a couple of passing goats.

Nicholas Kenyon







SPECTRUM

Self-made millionaire Gilbert Kaplan's love for Mahler's Second Symphony has made him famous for conducting it – despite having virtually no music training. **Sally Brompton reports**

One man's magnificent obsession

A self-made millionaire and real-life Walter Mitty will stand up on the stage of the Royal Festival Hall this Sunday and lead the London Symphony Orchestra through one of the world's most demanding compositions – Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony, *The Resurrection*.

Gilbert Kaplan, a 43-year-old American publisher whose previous musical experience consisted of three years of piano lessons as a small child, and playing the French horn at summer camp, has conducted the 90-minute symphony just four times before. It is the only piece in his repertoire, and he performs it from memory. In the words of the music critic of *The New York Times*: "Mr Kaplan has taken amateurism to a level almost beyond the comprehension."

Kaplan's impossible dream began the day he attended a rehearsal of *The Resurrection*, at Carnegie Hall.

He was 23, already a successful Wall Street economist, working as assistant to the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

That night he was kept awake by snatches of Mahler's powerful symphony resounding through his brain. The next day he bought a ticket for the Sunday afternoon performance. "It just bowled me over", he recalls. "I found myself weeping uncontrollably."

It was the start of a love affair as passionate and enduring as any in literature. Wherever *The Resurrection* was playing he would go to hear it.

Even so, it was not until four years ago that his obsession reached the realms of what was commonly regarded as lunacy.

By now, Kaplan was a millionaire, the publisher and editor-in-chief of his own award-winning magazine, *Institutional Investor*, a happily married man with three children.

He had heard *The Resurrection* dozens of times and knew as much about it as anyone in the world, but it was not enough. Kaplan decided there was only one way to penetrate the core of Mahler's Second – to conduct it himself.

For more than a year his pipe-dream germinated. "Every time I got my own enthusiasm up I would be cut down by somebody whose judgment I really trusted." The experts told him it was impossible. His friends told him he was mad. Finally his wife said to him: "If you're going to do it you might as well get started" – so he did.



Gilbert Kaplan: 'I would never conduct anything else. I just wanted to get inside this one piece'.

By now he had a plan. Rather than embark upon the entire 209-page opus in one go he would break it down into 12 separate movements and test himself out on the first. "I decided that if I could learn all the conducting techniques required in that first movement – which is, after all, as long as many Mozart symphonies – I would go ahead with the rest."

He managed to find a young conductor prepared to help him. Charles Bornstein, now musical director of the Newfoundland Symphony, spent the whole of August 1981 teaching Kaplan how to conduct, working nine hours a day, for 30 days without a break. Gilbert Kaplan devoted himself to learning the intricate techniques required to master the first 22 minutes of *The Resurrections*.

Barely able to read music when he started, he decided that in order to demonstrate his credibility he would have to memorize the entire symphony – something that few professionals would attempt. "I felt that if I was going to fail I wanted to fail knowing I'd done everything I could," explains Kaplan.

By the end of August he had mastered the rudiments of conducting and memorized the first movement of the symphony. He then hired the 119-piece American Symphony Orchestra for a morning.

After weeks of practising to recordings in his home, he was unprepared for the sheer magnitude of the orchestra and the stage. He raised his baton and prepared for his first much-rehearsed downbeat but when he reached the bottom of his stroke nothing happened. Just silence. "My God", thought Kaplan, "they're not going to play for me." Half a second later the sound came. "That was my first real lesson of conducting," says Kaplan. "I hadn't realized that your beat becomes *before* the musicians play."

When the rehearsal ended, the orchestra laid down their instruments and applauded him. "It was obviously not for my conducting skill", says Kaplan. "It was because they shared my enthusiasm for what I was trying to do."

For the next 12 months he spent at least six hours a day working on the symphony – three hours before he left for work in the morning, another three when he got home at night. Movement by movement he practised with the orchestra until he had memorized and rehearsed the complete symphony, a section at a time.

He travelled the world to attend all 15 performances of *The Resurrection* held that year, in places as far apart as Australia and Amsterdam, Tokyo and Vienna, collaring every conductor who would give him advice. He flew to London to see Sir Georg Solti who spent two hours with him, playing the piano while Kaplan conducted. And, after a few months, he found that not only was the music profession taking him seriously but the conductors themselves were questioning *him* about how other orchestras handled the symphony.

"Before I decided to go ahead I received nothing but discouragement", says Kaplan, "but once I committed myself to doing it I was adopted by a few people as a mascot." Even Charles Bornstein regarded him as his Eliza Doolittle. "He wanted to prove something to himself", says Kaplan. "A lot of people lived out their fantasies through what I was doing".

By the beginning of September 1982 he was ready to attempt the entire symphony without a score. He hired New York's Avery Fisher Hall, the American Symphony Orchestra and a 200-voice choir for his public debut, timing it to coincide with the 15th anniversary celebrations of his magazine and the end of the International Monetary Fund meeting in Toronto. His invited audience of 2,700 thus included the world's most powerful financiers – his magazine's most influential readers.

"When I walked out on to the podium that night, I was nervous", admits Kaplan, "but I felt that the audience and the orchestra and choir were more nervous than I was. I looked out and I just saw all these frightened faces in front of me. Everybody identified in some way with what I was doing and if I had failed I think they would have failed too."

As the final notes of the Second Symphony died away that evening there was a deathly silence before the entire black-tied audience rose to their feet and gave Gilbert Kaplan a five-minute standing ovation. They were applauding a man who had had the courage to risk his reputation to realize his dream. But they were also applauding a musician who, according to *Newsweek*, "conducted with a control and ardour that awed even some professionals".

The whole exercise had cost Gilbert Kaplan more than £100,000 and so far as he was concerned that was the end of it. But the musical world thought otherwise.

The American Symphony Orchestra invited him to conduct them again at Carnegie Hall, a guest performance in Japan followed and now Gilbert Kaplan is in Britain, at the invitation of the London Symphony Orchestra, to lead them through *The Resurrection* on Sunday at the Royal Festival Hall. "It takes a lot of courage for an orchestra to invite me", says Kaplan. "There are so many professional conductors available."

He recently bought, for an undisclosed sum, Gustav Mahler's original handwritten score of *The Resurrection* which he feels has given him a further insight into the symphony.

"I don't consider myself to be a professional conductor at all", says Kaplan, "but I do feel that musicians know that I love this piece of music.

"One of life's tragedies is that so few people are willing to take the risk of finding out if they can pursue their dreams – let alone actually pursuing them."

After performing in Tokyo earlier this year he decided to sell his magazine. "I was beginning to question the wisdom of having so much at stake and devoting what I regarded as less than the time an owner should devote to his company. I decided I had to make a choice." He sold the publication, which he started with $150,000 of investors' money for $70 million but he remains editor-in-chief.

In retrospect, he admits that setting out to conduct *The Resurrection* from nothing was insane. "I would certainly never have attempted it if I had known then what I know now", he says.

"I would never conduct anything else. I'm not trying to prove I can climb Everest. I just wanted to get inside this one piece of music that I love and I thought I might be able to express what I felt about the music when I conducted it.

"Now I don't think I can get any closer."

The heartland of quiet decency . . . or the capital of smug mediocrity. **Alan Franks visits Southgate as voters and parties prepare for Thursday's by-election**

Gateway to suburbia

The soul of Southgate is a tricky thing to find during the day, for the simple reason that it has gone to London. It will filter back again in the early evening along the Piccadilly line to Cockfosters or the Moorgate overground to Winchmore Hill, those two great conduits of middle-class commuterdom.

For Southgate proper, which is but one part of the paliamentary constituency of Enfield Southgate, this is the age of the Tube. Every few minutes the trains come crashing out into the open air somewhere between Bounds Green and Arnos Grove, having burrowed with the minimum delay beneath the north London sprawl between King's Cross and Finsbury Park.

Suddenly they assume the air of country transport, winding along like silver snail trails between the broad clean streets.

By the time you get to Oakwood, there is this peculiar phenomenon of peering out through the doors of an underground train on to a fresh green patchwork of open countryside.

As with so many commuter wedges around London, the story of the place is indivisible from the story of the track.

As the line advanced, so the housing developments fanned out from the shops during the two great building waves in the first 30 years of the century – three-bedroom semis striding blamelessly over the undulations of Palmers Green and Oakwood Park and glancing back at the politely distant skyline of the City.

The uniform architecture of the stations looks impossibly dated now. The brick rotundas with their funny bobbles on top dot their way up the map at regular intervals – icons to the force that made this brand of suburbia possible.

Clustered in the lea are the usual crowd – the NatWest, Liberty Cleaners, the newsagent, the Hairtique, Corkies Wine Bar, Just A Second (cocktail and party dresses £9.99, sequin skirts £1.99), Hector Macdonald, turf accountant, est 1920.

Depending on your point of view, you are standing in the heartland of quiet decency or the capital of smug mediocrity.





Metroland: Southgate station in 1933 and today. 'The story of the place is indivisible from the track'

It seems incongrous that this place should now be the focus of such attention. The only thing that makes sense about it all is that, on one level, the by-election is not about Southgate at all, but about the succession to a man killed by the IRA bomb in Brighton on October 12. It will also be one of the last elections to attract the full spectrum of eccentric candidates. The raised deposit level will become law in May or June.

This is safe Tory terrain, with a low unemployment rate of around 8 per cent, and owner-occupation in more than 75 per cent of homes.

The taxi driver puts it thus: "Course, now we've got all the Greeks and Pakkies coming in. Personally, I'd send them straight back home, although I know you can't do that really. I blame it all on, not Winnie Churchilll, you know, that other geezer, yes, Attlee, that's the fellow, for getting them all over in the first place to do the jobs, the road-building and that".

What's all this about a racial problem? In Southgate? Surely not. The 1981 census revealid 1,719 Irish, 705 West Indians, 1,595 from the Indian sub-continent, 7,286 "other New Commonwealth", and 4,032 from elsewhere.

In a constituency with an electorate of 66,644, this does not sound like great influx. Indeed, the immigration population is now reckoned to stand at 20 per cent, again considerably lower than the London average.

Even in Winchmore Hill, at the council homes in Carpenter Gardens, there have been nightmare stories of the kind you normally associate with a high-rise borough in the East End – families without one habitable room during repair work, rotting sills, holes in the floorboards, and shoddy wiring.

But, with the council sector accounting for only 10 per cent, it is the mortgage rate rather than the renovation programme which will weigh on the soul of Southgate as it casts its vote on Thursday.

As with many revised constituencies, there is something rather artificial about the creature that emerged in 1974, which is essentially the old seat of Southgate, with bits of the defunct Enfield West.

Today, the actual borough of Enfield takes in three parliamentary constituencies, Enfield North, Edmonton and Enfield Southgate. It that leaves you confused, you are in good local company. Up in Chase Side, where you seldom see a registration earlier than X, a middle-aged couple explains.

First she: "They're local elections, and. . ."

Me: "You're wrong, dear."

She: "That grass verge is in Barnet, but the kerb is in Enfield."

Me: "No, it's the other way round."

She: "No, it's not."

Me: "Yes, it is."

At least they do *row* in Southgate.

Because of the very high proportion (more than 20 per cent) of pensioners in the constituency, the manner of Sir Anthony Berry's death has quickened many a wartime memory.

"I think it's a shame there should be an election", says one man in his late seventies, strolling by the golf club in Trent Park. "It used to be that when an MP got killed in action the other parties ceded the seat."

Despite the appearance of the political big-wigs during the past fortnight (Lawson, Heseltine, Kinnock, Hattersley, Steel, Owen and many more), the fact remains that when you say you are off to Southgate, the reaction is a blank face which says: "Where?"

And *why* Southgate? South of what, and gate to where? If one may invert Peter Sellers' observations on Bal-ham, Southgate is a gateway to the north, or at least that great 8,000-acre strip of deer-hunting land called Enfield Chase.

When the Chase was deforested in 1777, the neighbouring parishes were given portions to compensate them for the loss of common rights, although today the words Enfield Chase mean no more than the station between Gordon Hill and Grange Park.

But, to return to today's Southgate, education is high in the minds of the voters. First, 7 per cent are students; second, there is a hell of rumpus about the merger of two schools on account of falling rolls; third, there is clear evidence of trouble among the pupils. Recently youths at a school in Enfield broke into their own science laboratory and stole chemicals, allegedly with a view to starting a "war".

Further, there is a good deal of local anger that one of the clinics dealing with the rehabilitation of glue-sniffers has been shut down by the council.

A few weeks ago a headmistress complained publicly that because of the proposed cuts in student grants, many girls who had the makings of excellent academics were unable to attend university and were being forced into menial jobs through their parents' inability to meet the costs of tuition.

No, all is not as it appears in Southgate.

Campaigning for the seat held by Brighton bomb victim Sir Anthony Berry

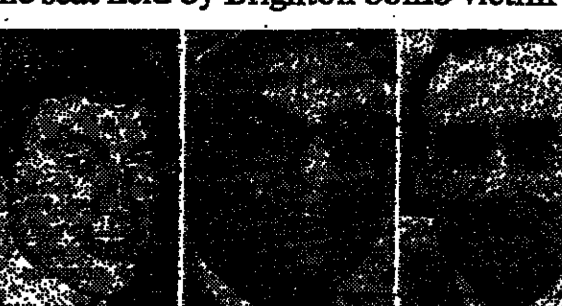
No one – not even the opposition – is disputing the assumption that Michael Portillo the 31-year-old Conservative candidate, is the natural heir apparent to the late Sir Anthony Berry. As special political adviser to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, he stands squarely in the mainstream of the brilliant young things of the Tory Party. Educated at Harrow County School for Boys, and with a first-class history degree from Peterhouse, Cambridge, he has landed a plum constituency with a June 1983 majority of 15,799.

The Liberal/SDP Alliance candidate Tim Slack, 54, belying his surname, has been pounding the pavements with remorseless energy since his selection 11 days ago. He is a former headmaster of the progressive private school Bedales, where Princess Margaret's children were educated, and is looking to repeat his home town performance at Petersfield in the 1974 general election when he recorded the third highest swing with an increase from 7,000 to 21,000 votes.

He could be upstaged by Peter Hamid, Enfield's first black councillor.

He is seeking to bring "Hidden Southgate" to the fore, and has made a name for himself by getting in the hair of Enfield's 47-19 Tory majority. He jibes at the term "gadfly" as being too frivolous but has delighted in embarrassing the authority by such means as leaking to the public news of an impending freeze on home improvement grants

His latest act of embarrassment is another leak, that the council's social services department is about to close Banstead House in Surrey.



Michael Portillo, left, Tory heir apparent; Labour's Peter Hamid, centre, and the Alliance's Tim Slack

CANDIDATES

M Portillo (C)
T Slack (L)
W F Hamid (Lab)
G Weiss (Captain Rainbow's Universal Party)
J W Kershaw (Nationalist)
A Pollydorou (Turkish Troops Out of Cyprus)
I I Burgess (Abolish Greater London, Restore Middlesex Shire)
R E Shenton (English Nationalist)
H M Anscomb (Get Off Road, Freight On Rail)

GENERAL ELECTION

Sir Anthony Berry (C)	26,451
D Morgan (L)	10,652
Ms M Honeyball (Lab)	8,132
M Braithwate (BNP)	318
Conservative majority	15,799

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moreover . . . Miles Kington

Theatres are more and more dominated by the radio mike, a small device which enables your voice (and any taxi cab in the area) to be heard throughout the theatre. On one of the first nights of *Starlight Express*, it is reported, the cast were neutralized for half the show by the BBC TV van outside and could make no noise. But other, more piquant stories are told about radio mikes, as this selection of readers' letters shows.

From Jack Pierrepoint
Sir, I am a London cabbie on a small radio link with South London, so I was very surprised the other month to get voices coming through my intercom in the West End. It's well out of range there, see. Anyway, I started listening and I soon realized that I had tuned in to some play in Shaftesbury Avenue.

Now, I am not what you would call a literary gent, so it was all new to me and, I may say, a revelation. If all you hear all day long is "Jack, get over to Putney Bridge, would you?" then a slab of Shakespeare comes as an eye-opener. I am now a rabid theatre-goer and have switched to driving in the day-time so I can go to the theatre in the evening. The new Dario Fo is very good, by the way.

From Quentin Lark
Sir, I am a West-End actor, though normally it's bits of TV serials, you know how things are. Not long ago I was in a Shaftesbury Avenue production when we started getting taxi calls coming through on the radio mikes. These days you learn to take it in your stride, but I couldn't help noticing that half the calls came from Streatham and that they couldn't find enough taxis to go there.

Well, to cut a log story short, I was out of a job shortly after and remembering what I'd heard, I decided to start a one-man cab firm in Streatham. I now own six cars and am doing very well, thank you, so it's goodbye to acting.

From Inspector Millmoss of the Yard
Sir, I was recently called out to a most unusual case, in a meat freezing depot. The night watchman had heard voices coming from one of the biggest freezers. When he got there, we could hear someone calling "Out! Out!" or something similar.

Now, here's the funny thing. When we opened the electronically-controlled doors there was nobody inside. In some strange way the electrical apparatus was picking up a nearby production of Macbeth. So may I urge everyone not to use sophisticated electronics in the vicinity of a production of Macbeth.

From Mrs Kate Wheatley
Sir, I live near Heathrow, so as you can imagine my life is made miserable. Not by the noise of the planes, though. No, the thing is that I wear a hearing aid, over which I keep getting messages like "Please extinguish all cigarettes and return to your seats."

Now, here's the extraordinary thing. The other day I, was so fed up that when a voice said: "Good morning, everyone, this is Captain Grimsby welcoming you aboard this flight to New York." I said furiously: "And this is me telling you to return to Heathrow because you've got a bomb aboard." Well, believe it or not, a big jumbo flying overhead actually turned round and went straight back. You can't imagine the fun I now have giving planes orders. Yesterday I told the passengers on a Boeing 747 that on this flight all the duty-free articles would be given away free, first come, first served.

From Mr J. Keith
Sir, my pacemaker receives the pirate station, Laser Radio. Is this illegal?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 515)

ACROSS
1 Uproar (6)
5 Credentials (6)
8 Hard-wearing grass (3)
9 Renounce (6)
10 Tool (6)
11 Social climber (4)
12 Charity TV programme (8)
14 Light bracket (6)
17 Away (6)
19 Solitary person (4,4)
22 Bound (4)
24 Sea channel (6)
25 Class (6)
26 Whimsical child (3)
27 Shredder (6)
28 Woman warrior (6)

DOWN
2 Civic (5)
3 Louis XVI's dynasty (7)
4 Respire (7)
5 Drive bicycle (5)
6 Turning point (5)
7 Banded fur mammal (7)
13 Flow out (3)
15 Scottish farmer (7)
16 Overawe (3)
17 Lucerne (7)
18 Oder valley region (7)
20 Precise (5)
21 Lutra lutra (5)
23 Picture (5)

SOLUTION TO No 514
ACROSS: 8 Made to measure 9 Loo 10 Collected 11 Manic 13 Scourge 16 Aircrew 19 Along 22 Incognito 24 Far 25 Inconvenience
DOWN: 1 Emblem 2 Adjoin 3 Stock car 4 Smalls 5 Mate 6 Butter 7 Meddle 12 Ali 14 Oratorio 15 Gun 16 Acidic 17 Rococo 18 Waiter 20 Offend 21 Garden 23 Garg

FRIDAY PAGE

Ian Woodward talks to the barefoot ragamuffin with star quality who shuns the limelight

Why Greta could be another Garbo

Greta Scacchi is being called "a young Glenda Jackson" and "a latter-day Garbo". All sorts of names have been given to this self-assured daughter of an Italian painter father and an English mother since she won international acclaim last year as the errant memsahib Olivia in the film *Heat and Dust*.

And certainly she seems to be one of the most exciting young actresses to emerge in Britain for a decade.

She is only just 24 and there seems no stopping her. On Sunday she co-stars with Laurence Olivier on independent television in *The Ebony Tower*, two days later American viewers will see her as the tragic heroine in the film *Camille*, which has its British première in the New Year, and Channel 4 is soon to screen her six-part Australian series, *Waterfront*.

The comparisons with double Oscar-winner Glenda Jackson are particularly apt. Both actresses have a reluctance to act "the star" in public, an almost heightened fastidiousness over the roles they accept, an abhorrence of make-up other than when a camera is whirring, a predilection for wearing clothes that border on the tatty, and the use of a sharp, abrasive tongue echoing a no-nonsense personality.

As with the star of *Women in Love* and *A Touch of Class*, there are few grey areas in the personality profile of Miss Scacchi. Either you like her or you don't, but the vibrations she sends out guarantee she will never be disregarded.

She was born in Milan and lived there until she was six. When her parents separated she was raised in Sussex and at 15 left with her mother, a former Bluebell Girl, and her university professor stepfather for Australia, returning two years later to study at the Bristol Old Vic.

"When I was about eight years old I happened to mention to my father that I wanted to be an actress and he gave me a wallop in the face", she reflects, still wincing at the memory.

"He said, 'Whatever you do, don't be an actress'. He is very cosmopolitan, my father, but when it comes to me, he is very medieval, very Italian."

Our rendezvous is the tea lounge of a London hotel just a day before her departure for the United States. In America, chaperoned by an older brother, she will meet film and television producers and embark on a round of publicity interviews before the airing of *Camille*. As she pours tea she flits from fiery Latin outbursts to moments of genteel English secretiveness.

She talks ecstatically about Alexandre Dumas' legendary Marguerite Gautier, the poor farm girl who becomes one of the most dazzling courtesans in Paris, a role immortalized on the screen nearly half a century earlier by Garbo. Along with Colin Firth, Ben Kingsley, Billie Whitelaw and John Gielgud, she completed the filming in and around Paris earlier this year.



Girl next door look: Greta in *The Ebony Tower*

"It was terrifying to begin with to find that anybody I mentioned *Camille* to immediately went on about Greta Garbo's 'amazing performance'," the new Greta explained, lighting yet another cigarette.

"Actually, I'd never seen Garbo's version until two days ago, when it was screened for me, and ever since then I've been in a state of shock. What she did in the film, you see, was so wonderful, bringing to the role so much more variety, so much more colour, than I think I could bring to my own interpretation."

Greta, who filmed *The Coca-Cola Kid* ("I can't stand the stuff") in Australia earlier this year, and then went straight into the television film adaptation of Graham Greene's *Dr Fischer of Geneva*, shot in Switzerland with Alan Bates and James Mason, is obsessive about the correct pronunciation of both her names.

It is "Gretta", not "Greeta", and – the stumbling block – "Ska-kee", never "Scatchy".

We are suddenly joined by a tall, fair-haired young man in jeans carrying a small rucksack. "That's Colin", says Greta. "Colin Firth – my Armand in *Camille*. He's come to meet me here. We're going out tonight."

Her boyfriend? She smiles ambiguously: "No."

She is sensitive about personal relationships at the moment, explaining: "In the past three years I've not been in one place long enough to forge close friendships. The people I've been closest to are the people I've worked with for two or three months. Then we go our separate ways and I never see them again.

"It's all very unsatisfactory. I need to organize my life in another way. My career has been going much faster than my private life, and it's no good; it's very unsettling.

"At the moment happiness to me would be to be able to see my friends and give them the attention I want to, because I feel very unfulfilled in that area."

Is there someone special? "No, my life is a disaster in that area. It doesn't seem to be working out for me. Boyfriends? God, it's a big problem for me. For years I've watched some very famous actresses going through several marriages and, in a way, I can now see why, because divorce is an occupational hazard for an actress."

When Granada TV's steamy film of John Fowles' novella, *The Ebony Tower*, is shown on the independent network – it concerns exiled English painter Olivier and two girls in a *ménage à trois* – attention will inevitably focus on the nude scenes of Greta and Toyah Wilcox at a picnic in the Dordogne with Olivier.

When the film was made deep in the French countryside last autumn, Toyah admitted that the prospect of the nude scenes gave her nightmares, and she vowed she would never do a nude scene again in a hurry.

But Greta says crisply: "I don't see filmed nudity as something scary. Everybody is so different about these things and an awful lot of it is to do with upbringing. People have complexes. But I find that nudity as a concept is not something I am afraid of.

"I don't find it obscene. I don't see why I should be ashamed about letting people see me with my clothes off, because we're all the same underneath. We all have the same bodies."

She gives a wry little laugh, which does not go unnoticed among other hotel guests close by. "I think", she says, "nudity is always easier if there are two of you . . ."

As for her appearance on film and the face she sees in a mirror, she laments: "Oh God, I see bags under my eyes, which is something I've inherited from my father. It's a problem when you're filming.

"Half-way through the production there is always a day when there is a lot of tension. The lighting cameraman is having a bit of difficulty with what he sees staring at him through the viewfinder, some problems, and suddenly a messenger comes across and says, 'You really should go to bed earlier'.

"And my *feet* – they're very big and very wide and not at all the same shape as other people's feet. Consequently, I dress like a ragamuffin not because I choose to, not because I find it a particularly endearing image, but because when I go out to buy myself a dress, something elegant, the dress goes out of fashion before I can find shoes to go with it.



Star image: Greta as Marguerite in *Camille*

"It's the same problem when I'm acting. I wear tennis shoes the whole time, or else go around in my bare feet. When I *do* have to be squeezed into shoes for an acting role, there's a pain I feel continually."

She answers a Tannoy call and on her return exclaims: "One thing about this career, people always know where you are. This summer I decided I really needed a holiday, I really needed to go back to Italy, which I was missing a lot and because my Italian was deteriorating badly.

"So I decided to go to one of the most secluded spots I could find, miles from any airport, and where trains to the airport aren't direct.

"Twice in one month I got tracked down through the grocer down the street. Twice in one month I had to come back to London for a costume-fitting. You just can't get away."

Thus the price of fame for an actress who, since leaving drama school less than four years ago, has played only leading roles in everything with which she has been associated – including an episode of *Bergerac*.

So far she has resisted the enticements of the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the cheque books of Hollywood producers: "All I've ever wanted to do is work that inspires me, and nothing that I've been offered from America has ever inspired me."

But maybe, on her present vist to the United States, all that is about to change?

"I must get closer to myself and discover who I am. I'm not happy just to be an empty shell which I fill with a character that I am acting at a certain time. I want to be myself.

"If I can't achieve that, then I'll have to seriously consider doing another job. But I'm willing to give it a chance."

TALKBACK

Selecting students by fairest means

From the Rector, Lord Crowther-Hunt, Exeter College, Oxford.

As chairman of the Management Committee of the Oxford Colleges Admissions Office I should like to correct a major error of fact in Amanda Craig's article on Oxbridge admissions (November 20).

It is not true that under our new admissions system, which starts in 1985 (for entry in 1986 and later), that Oxford "is taking only candidates in the fourth term of the sixth form". We shall continue to welcome post-A level as well as pre-A level candidates. The main change here will be that the traditional written entrance examination will be restricted to pre-A level candidates only. This is to avoid any suspicion that unfair advantage in this form of examination may be gained by post-A level candidates who stay on for a seventh term.

Nor do we believe that by restricting this form of examination to pre-A level candidates it will "throw much more emphasis on the interview as candidates are less prepared for the sort of questions posed by the entrance examination". The subject matter covered in the different papers in this examination is being revised by subject committees (which includes practising schoolteachers) to ensure that papers are appropriate for those in the fourth term of the sixth form.

Post-A level candidates will in future have to seek entry by a different method (Mode N). This consists of an extended interview – but it will be supplemented by knowledge of the candidate's A level results and a report from the school. It may be still further supplemented by a specimen of the candidate's written work and by a written test.

Pre-A level candidates may also seek entry by Mode N if they prefer to do so. Successful pre-A level applicants by this mode will then receive a conditional offer based on realistic A level grades.

In short – the aim of the new system is to enable colleges to select the most able undergraduates in the fairest possible way irrespective of school, sex or parental background.

From Dr Mary Beard and Dr Susan Owens, Newnham College, Cambridge.

In a few weeks' time we shall be among those interviewing candidates for admission to Newnham College, Cambridge. May we reassure our applicants that they will encounter few of the stereotypes so archly classified by Amanda Craig.

Our object is always to allow interviewees to show themselves to best advantage in the relatively short time available – an aim which would be entirely frustrated by the intimidatory tactics described in Ms Craig's article. We will not conduct an inquisition, nor attempt to display our own artfulness by revealing the candidates' ignorance, nor give preferential treatment to the daughters of old members.

Amanda Craig presents a *Brideshead* image of Oxbridge, entirely populated by eccentric (male) dons. This is tendentious and in our view misleading.

Help's at hand

From Zelda West-Meads, Counsellor and spokeswoman for the National Marriage Guidance Council, Herbert Gray College, Rugby.

In Jeannette Kupfermann's informative article, The Family Fights Back, about marriage and divorce, she gave the impression that there was very little help in this country for families with marriage problems.

In fact, the National Marriage Guidance Council provides a nationwide counselling service with 400 centres in which 1,700 counsellors see more than 40,000 new cases each year. In addition to that we are constantly expanding our services because at least double that number are seeking our help.

We see people who are married, single, separated or divorced with personal problems.

While our main task is to help people understand why their marriages are going wrong and help them overcome these problems, we also recognize that not all marriages are viable. In these cases we help people through their divorce, thus reducing damage to themselves and their children.

Additionally, our counsellors work with young people in schools and colleges preparing them for parenthood and family life, and provide support groups for a wide range of people, ranging from parents of handicapped children, prisoners, people facing unemployment, retirement or bereavement.

From Gwynn Davis, Department of Social Administration, University of Bristol, 22 Berkeley Square, Bristol.

I am quoted by Jeannette Kupfermann (The family fights back, November 28) as saying: "We have no hard evidence about the long-term success of conciliation."

But the evidence from our recent survey of "consumers" of conciliation, carried out in Bristol and Bromley, indicates that for some families conciliation does indeed have long-term benefits in terms of enduring access arrangements and an easing of tension between parents.

Ms Kupfermann is also mistaken when she states that the Bristol Courts Family Conciliation Service is run by solicitors.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Sweat more sweetly . . .



Excessive sweating, hyperhidrosis, not only ruins patients' clothing but destroys their composure as well – doctors have even heard it advanced as a reason for avoiding marriage. And the more worried a patient gets about his condition, the more he sweats.

In close communities it can cause extreme embarrassment.

Sweating is part of the body's heat control system. There are two types of sweat glands: the widely distributed eccrine glands, secreting the clear fluid which on hot days shows as beads of sweat on the forehead or trickles down the back; and the apocrine glands of the armpits and groin, producing thicker fluid which, when broken down by skin bacteria, gives each body a distinctive scent (excessive smell is known as bromhidrosis).

In this week's *Mims* magazine, Dr Andrew Pembroke, of King's College Hospital, London, reviews recent advances in the treatment of hyperhidrosis. Aluminium salts found in most anti-perspirants remain the first line of attack. A new formula of aluminium chloride in 20 per cent alcohol, marketed as Anhidrol forte, or Driclor, is reasonably effective. It should be used at nights, but as it is an irritant the armpits should not be shaved or washed immediately before. It is used daily at first, but as the condition improves, twice a week will be enough.

Hands and feet are better treated by using an electrical gadget to pass anticholinergic (drying agents) into the sweat glands. A solution of glycopyrronium bromide, Robinul, is widely prescribed, although it has recently been shown that the process, iontophoresis, is almost as effective when tap water is used. A simple electrical device has been designed for home use.

If local medical measures are inadequate, surgery may be necessary: either excision of the armpit skin, or cutting of the sympathetic nerves leading to the hands or feet.

It is more difficult to control excess body odour, although efforts shold be made to reduce skin bacteria with antiseptic soaps and lotions. Dr Pembroke does have a word of cheer for people who suffer the disastrous social handicap of smelling of rotten fish. Recent research shows that this is caused by an inborn metabolic error which results in excessive excretion of trimethylamine in the sweat. This condition can be eased by taking a diet low in choline, a chemical present in meat.



Teddy bears' disease is no picnic

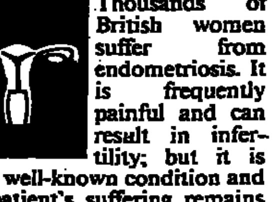
Any teddy bears' picnic in the Australian woods this year would be a melancholy affair as an epidemic of chlamydia psittaci is wreaking havoc among koala bears. This organism usually gives rise, in birds, animals and humans to a respiratory tract infection.

In the recent outbreak the organism has reportedly been isolated from koala bears' eyes and genital tracts, which raises the possibility that the disease may have spread through activities not usually considered suitable for nursery bears' picnics.

Psittacosis, often caught by humans from domestic birds, is more common than usually realized, but the other groups of chlamydia are more important to medicine. They cause a prevalent sexually transmitted disease, non-specific urethritis (NSU), in women more accurately described as non-specific genital infection.

The symptoms can be devastating in the long term, damaging the fallopian tubes and causing infertility. The only safe rule is that all contacts of men with NSU are treated, and doctors treating pelvic inflammatory disease assume that whatever other organisms are known to be present, chlamydia is there too.

Travelling tissue



Thousands of British women suffer from endometriosis. It is frequently painful and can result in infertility; but it is not a well-known condition and the patient's suffering remains unappreciated.

Endometriosis is the development of the womb lining, or endometrium, in other parts of the body, usually but not always the pelvic organs. When these patches of stray uterine tissue swell with the normal monthly cycle, the bleeding at menstruation is not only painful, but all too apparent if the bladder, rectum or navel is involved.

The diagnosis of endometriosis is difficult. Its symptoms mimic so many other diseases, and it is often confused with pelvic inflammatory disease with which it sometimes coexists, striking as it does a similar group of women.

The reason why uterine tissue should migrate is unknown. It is suggested that menstrual blood containing endometrial cells may be passed upwards through the fallopian tubes and so spill into the pelvic cavity. In other cases it is thought that the cells are carried in the lymphatic or blood system, explaining why distant deposits are found in the lungs and kidneys. Some pathologists suggest an embryological cause. Primitive embryonic cells persist, but only differentiate under some unknown influence in early adult life.

During pregnancy the disease regresses. It therefore seemed a logical treatment to prescribe hormones, like oestrogen and progesterone, similar to those in the contraceptive pill, which produces a pseudo-pregnancy.

Doctors soon found that oestrogen was unnecessary and better results were obtained with progesterone alone. Results are good, but side effects are common and future pregnancy unlikely.

More recently other preparations, Danazol (taken by mouth) and Buserelin (a nasal spray hormone mixture) have been used. Danazol is a steroid with androgenic features; it is anti-progesterone, anti-oestrogen. The patient soon feels better, and although there are tiresome side effects they are not usually serious. After a year or so the disease often regresses, and pregnancy – in up to 50 per cent of the cases when endometriois has been responsible for infertility – becomes possible.

In older women, or in very resistant patients, surgery for removal of the ovaries may be necessary, but this treatment inducing a sudden early menopause, brings with it its own problems.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

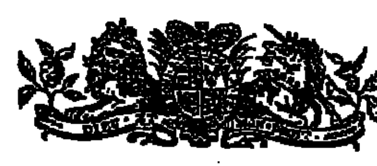
The picture gallery good food guide

Professor Michael Crawford, the nutritionist, is rapidly becoming an expert in the historical and still-life paintings of the last few centuries; but he is less concerned with the artistic quality of the pictures than with the food portrayed on tables and plates.

Because it is no longer possible to analyse the actual food of an earlier age, he says we should study pictures and assess the differences in diet which have occurred over the past 150 years.

Although painters had a public relations duty to perform for their patrons, pictures do give an accurate idea of the quality of the diet – even if not the quantity. Professor Crawford has noticed that until the second half of the 19th century food was mainly derived from the wild. In his opinion this is eminently suitable for the human race, which is only 150 generations away from being a variety of wild animal itself.

Professor Crawford contrasts the lean meat of game, wild boar, fish, swan and primitively raised poultry and farmstock in the pictures with the 25 per cent fat of the Grade IV carcasses he saw hanging in the Smithfield Show this week. Not only was there less fat in the meat, but when eaten it was accompanied by large helpings of fruit, including exotic fruits, and nuts, but with very few berries. It was then washed down with wine, which in small quantities has a beneficial effect on fat metabolism.



THE TIMES DIARY

Remote islands

Those who hoped next week's select committee report on the future of the Falklands might lead to a softening of Britain's hardline attitude will be bitterly disappointed. Indeed, although spending on Fortress Falklands is currently some £2 million a day, the report is, I'm told, more hardline than ever. The Argentines' legal claim to the islands has been undermined by their resort to arms, it will say. Our government is "prudent" to oppose talks on sovereignty, should resist the temptation to do a deal, however high the present costs, and to strike a deal simply to reinforce the stability of President Alfonsín's democratic government would be an "extremely risky" gamble according to the report. Alfonsín, it continues, has adopted the same stance as his predecessors. This makes the prospects of an early settlement of the sovereignty question "remote", and if the Argentines insist on discussing it, it will hinder progress on other fronts the committee concludes. The passage of time has done nothing to lessen hostility: quite the opposite. The general election scuppered a draft report prepared by the first, less Tory-dominated select committee, which apparently suggested sovereignty *should* be discussed and that leaseback was the least unpalatable option.

Force nein

Sequestrators Price Waterhouse have written trade unions asking for details of money given to the NUM, and demanding that future loans or donations be paid to them instead. They have been nothing if not thorough. Recipients include the general secretaries of the Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh police federations. This *faux pas* is matched only by Fife Regional Council, which has inserted notices into staff pay packets requesting contributions for the miners' welfare fund. The council's 650 employees in the police force are not, I am told, amused.

Thorny problem

Sir Keith Joseph would perhaps arouse less anger if he cut the grants of undergraduates at St Anne's College, Oxford. They have just voted to name a room in the college after one of its better-known old girls, Dr Rose Dugdale, the Republican activist jailed for seven years for her part in an £8 million art robbery and an abortive IRA helicopter bombing raid. The suggestion horrifies St Anne's new barrister principal, Professor Claire Palley, who had first-hand experience of terrorism when teaching in Cyrus, Zimbabwe and Belfast. She has been trying to reason with her students. "I would not wish to be party to conferring honours of this kind", she tells me.

Bloodless

Is Labour about to indulge in a fresh bout of bloodletting? Its appeals and mediations committee has approved Roy Hattersley's resolution, to be debated by the national executive next Wednesday, that another investigation be conducted into the activities of Militant supporters within the party. The result may be predictable. For the first time Labour's 1985 diary carries the Register of Non-Affiliated Organisations – an approved list set up in 1982 as a tortuous way of showing that Militant was not, and is not, kosher.

BARRY FANTONI



'At the third stroke, a BT share will be worth 89p precisely'

Booked

Lee Iacocca, the American who steered Chrysler from near bankruptcy to bouyant success, wants to tell his story to the British. He's having difficulty. The printers of his autobiography have called in the receiver, and publishers, Sidgwick have so far failed to persuade him that the book would do for business what Iacocca did for Chrysler.

Advance warning

That Sir John Nott sailed with such comparative ease through his interrogation by the Foreign Affairs select committee is hardly surprising: he had seen the questions in advance. These were prepared by Tam Dalyell, who is not on the committee, and passed to his Labour colleague Denis Canavan, who is. In the process, Dalyell unfortunately left a duplicate on a House of Commons photocopier. "I thought you'd ask me that," announced Sir John smugly halfway through a "surprise" Canavan question on whether the Belgrano carried exocets. "You see, leaks happen both ways."

PHS

Unite to back Jordan's peace

by King Husain

The superpowers' approach to the Middle East has often been ambiguous and their policies inconsistent. Hard experience has taught us that a single peace mediator, albeit a superpower with considerable leverage of pressure on Israel, has not induced the desired result.

From about the mid-1970s the United States assumed the role of peace-broker between the Arab states and Israel to the exclusion of others. The abandonment of the joint approach with the Soviet Union, which characterized the first phase of peace-making at the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference after the war of 1973, marked a turning point for American power and influence in the region. Rather than consolidating that position, however, successive setbacks have eroded the United States' position.

In his September 1982 peace initiative (which I welcomed and attempted to promote for a full 18 months), President Reagan spoke of the immediate adoption of a settlement freeze by Israel to facilitate the peace process. Israel was contemptuous in its rejection of this initiative and the construction of new settlements continues unabated.

We awaited the American reaction. When it came, it was a shock. Israel was to receive more aid than ever before, while we were denied the sale of weapons essential to our national security. More recently, American funds have been rushed to prop up Israel's ailing economy while some Israeli leaders call for the forcible mass expulsion of the Arab population of Israel and the occupied territories.

Recent attempts at promoting peace in our region have shown a marked neglect of the aspirations of the people directly concerned. We believe the integrity of the people under occupation must be protected, and the status of their land safeguarded.

To this end we have launched a determined diplomatic drive to break the current impasse. It is an earnest attempt to create a situation in which Jordan, along with its Palestinian and other Arab partners, can breathe new life into the moribund peace process. While our commitment to the principles enunciated by United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 remains unshakeable, we have called for an international peace conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

My country has long been committed to peace and security in the Middle East. We have supported Iraq against Iranian aggression. We continue to respect the Arab decision to designate the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We are conducting serious discussions with the PLO to define the basic requirements of peacemaking, including the establishment of a confederal union between Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

We have recently restored diplomatic relations with Egypt. Some see this as part of a concerted effort by the US to revive the moribund Reagan peace initiative of 1982, but Israel rejects outright the terms of this initiative. Others have described the measure as an attempt to form a bloc, an axis, to check the growing influence of other Arab states. Let me state categorically that nothing could be further from the truth.

Our decision is the result of a general conviction that since Egypt is a vital part of the Arab world, and with Egypt's unstinting contributions to Arab causes under its present leadership, the time had come to restore our relations and fullest cooperation, to adequately face our common destiny. Egypt's reunification with its Arab family will reinforce the stability of the region and strengthen the responsible Arab constituency. We want peace, but it has to be a stable peace. We want a settlement, but it must be a comprehensive one.

Extracted from a speech delivered yesterday at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence studies.

Stephen Aris looks at the unwelcome changes in store for a proud breed

Will Thatcher trim the pilots' sails?

Trinity House, the ancient body which has for more than 450 years supervised approaches to Britain's shores, will soon have to face the biggest shake-up in its long and distinguished history.

Along with 39 other pilotage authorities around the country, Trinity House provides the back-up service which enables Britain's 1,373 working pilots to guide ships of all shapes, sizes and nationalities safely into harbour. It is a job of which the pilots themselves are intensely proud and fiercely protective. But shipowners who have to foot the £43m annual bill say that this service is too expensive, over-manned and often unnecessary.

The Government has its own interest. Not only is it keen to keep British ports attractive to international shipping, but it sees in the archaic customs and practices of the pilots a ripe target for deregulation.

In the next two weeks the transport secretary, Nicholas Ridley, is to produce his department's proposals in a Green Paper. There is intensive interest in Whitehall as to what form these will take. Earlier this year it was expected that Ridley, one of the Government's most ardent advocates of deregulation, would advance swingeing changes. But faced with both the daunting complexities of the pilotage business and the Prime Minister's reluctance to fight another major battle during the miners' strike, it is thought that he may now be more cautious.

Two Cabinet committees, chaired by Minister without Portfolio Lord Young, are examining the whole area of deregulation and competition policy in the run-up to the spring budget. But as Mr Ridley is already discovering through the reception to his Bill on buses, deregulation has few immediate political attractions. In tackling the pilots he risks antagonising a highly vocal group of mainly Conservative supporters.

The pilot's job is essential and responsible. He is the man with expert local knowledge who guides all ships, apart from local vessels under 3,500 tons, into harbour, and if anything goes wrong, it is usually the pilot who carries the can. Experienced pilots with 20 years' service can count on the fingers of one hand the times a master has questioned their decision.

DROPPING THE PILOT. Peter Brookes (after Tenniel)

Most pilots are old merchant seamen up from the ranks, and as a body are tough, disciplined and dedicated to their craft. They are also often very awkward and argumentative, as shipowners and the Government have discovered. A few lines of doggerel in the current issue of the Trinity House magazine paints an accurate portrait:

Afloat, he's on firm ground: it is his decision
How best to ride the tides with deft precision:
Honest in his craft, and proud of his ability.
The Pilot does not know – or show – humility.

For centuries pilots have been almost literally a law unto themselves, and it was only in 1913 that they were subject to any regulation at all. Even now they remain proudly self-employed with average earnings of some £20,000 a year. But over the years they have become enmeshed in a web of legislation and by-laws administered by a small army of bureaucrats that the best brains in Whitehall are finding hard to untangle.

"The administration of pilotage defies belief", says Stuart Conacher of the General Council of British Shipping, the shipowners' trade association. "There are 88 pilotage districts and 40 pilotage authorities, each with their own set of by-laws, regulations and scale of charges".

What makes the situation even more complex is that responsibility for pilotage does not rest with the pilotage authority. Trinity House, for example, merely provides the boats and the shore stations from which the pilots work. The ports, the shipowners and in some cases the local authority also have a finger in the pie. On top of the whole edifice sits a quango in the shape of the Pilotage Commission, created in 1980 and which so far, through no fault of its own, has made little progress in sorting out the mess.

The shipowners acknowledge the need for the service, but at the same time complain loudly about bearing the cost of a service which, they argue, is lavishly overstaffed, and which has failed to change with the times. "Over the last 20 years", says John Callen, chairman of the Pilotage Commission, "there have been dramatic changes in the business: a drastic decline in English merchant shipping, the growth of North Sea oil, containerization and a closer alignment of the UK with the Common Market. But while the ports have adjusted to these changes, the pilots have not."

An examination of the official statistics tend to support the shipowners' contention that in many ports pilots are under-worked and overpaid. Last year, for example, each of the 53 Southampton pilots, whose net earnings were £19,994 apiece, did an average of 2.9 jobs a week while the three pilots at the Scottish port of Peterhead handled 50 ships apiece a week for an annual salary of £23,279.

The pilots do not dispute these figures, and agree that they are comparatively well paid. "But", says Neil Walker, chairman of the UK Pilots Association, "if you want a Rolls-Royce service you have got to pay for it. Each of my jobs takes me 16 hours, with waiting and travelling time, and I'm on call 24 hours a day."

Both pilots and shipowners agree that there is scope for rationalization, and that in the process several hundred pilots may have to hang up their oilskins. The real question is: how many and at what cost? Two years ago the merchant bankers Samuel Montagu were commissioned to study the problem. They came up with a scheme that involved paying off up to 600 pilots – 45 per cent of the total – with handouts of up to £105,000 per man. The overall cost was £43 million – just about what it costs to run the service for a single year. The shipowners thought this far too generous, so the Montagu scheme remained on the shelf and the problem was handed back to the Government.

Just how the Department of Transport will tackle the redundancy question remains unknown, but it is suggested that Whitehall is trying to simplify the whole field. The obvious solution would be to strip Trinity House and the other pilotage authorities of their responsibilities and hand the job to the ports. It is a move that would be welcomed by the shipowners but fiercely resisted by the pilots.

David Watt

White change – black outlook

A visit to South Africa at the present time is a fascinating but dispiriting experience. Things are changing, yes, but the more they change the more they stay the same. And the more they stay the same, the more they seem to go backwards.

Since I was there in January the new constitution, setting up separate chambers of parliament for Indians and Coloureds, has been put into place; next month the cumbersome machinery will grind into operation. And yet it seemed that the only things to have been achieved had been negative – an increase in the positive apathy of the Indian and Coloured communities, a right-wing backlash which nearly toppled the government candidate in a Johannesburg by-election last week, and an outburst of black unrest in which a number of people lost their lives, without making the slightest permanent dent in the white state.

Of course there have been other factors involved. The recession has steadily deepened in recent months and unemployment is now very high, particularly among blacks but also, to some extent, among lower middle-class whites. Educational standards in black schools are a constant source of ligitimate agitation, and the first faint stirrings of black trade union power are beginning to ruffle the surface of politics. But the essential fact is that Mr P. W. Botha's attempt to "modernize" apartheid has simply demonstrated more vividly than ever the impossible contraditions of the system.

There is no conceivable logic, even within that system, in drawing a distinction between blacks on the one hand and Indians and Coloureds on the other; and the first product of the attempt to make one, so far as I can see, has been more Afrikaaner cynicism. The second consequence is the paradoxical one that if, in the "modernizing process" *something* has been done about two second-class peoples, it is harder to resist the idea that *something* will also have to be done about the third-class citizens.

Mr Botha has, in effect, publicly acknowledged the force of this proposition, and hinted that he will shortly introduce parallel reforms for blacks. But what is he to do? Neither Afrikaaner politics nor purely practical considerations would allow him to set up yet another, fourth, chamber for the urban blacks. So there is evidently going to be some tinkering with the form of local representation in the townships, but not much more.

At the end of the day, the result will be the worst of all worlds – a black population, more alienated than ever, an Indian and Coloured population whose consciousness of injustice has actually been enhanced, and a strong sense of Afrikaaner unease over the government's "softness to the kaffirs".

This impression of a regime which is taking one step forward and two steps back extends to the foreign field. In January Mr Botha's government appeared to have established a triumphant ascendancy over the whole of southern Africa. Mugabe in Zimbabwe and Machel in Mozambique had been effectively tamed by economic and military threats and the Angolans were rapidly being forced to the negotiating table by even cruder methods.

There seemed every prospect that the South Africans would feel strong enough to allow independence to Namibia after free elections under UN auspices. The argument went that Swapo, the Namibian "liberation" movement, would doubtless win in any such contest but would be in no better position to harbour anti-South African guerrillas after independence than Mugabe and Machel.

What has actually happened is rather different. Mr Mugabe does remain firmly pinned down by what amounts to a civil war in Matabeleland, which, if not actually fermented by South Africa, at least draws sustenance from sources of supply located on South African territory. In Mozambique, however, the limits of South African power have been demonstrated – not by President Machel, but by the opposition guerrillas which the South Africans conjured up to keep him in order, but which they cannot now get back into the bottle.

In Namibia South African still lacks the self-confidence to allow an independent Swapo government, and has been stalling in the face of every kind of international pressure, particularly from Washington. I could discover no real sign last week, either in Pretoria or in Windhoek, the sleepy Namibian capital, that they have any intention of changing their minds.

Part of this reluctance stems, no doubt, from a perfectly rational calculation. At least in the medium term, time appears to be on Pretoria's side. As long as the Angolan government and Swapo forces taking refuge there are squeezed by military and political pressures, there is a lot to be said for postponing a settlement.

There is even talk in Windhoek of the South Africans abandoning direct rule and reviving a tame, non-Swapo regime which could prepare to beat Swapo in an electoral fight. This is a bad bet, owing to the complete inability of the local political parties – white, black, tribal and non-tribal – to agree amongst themselves, and the chances are that the South African administrator general will continue to reign.

The South African government is still hankering after a way of preventing a straighforward Swapo regime in Windhoek, even though the logic of events makes this almost inevitable in the long run, and probably the lesser of evils for them as well.

The reason is ultimately the same as the reason for the domestic recoil. In spite of all the talk about change in South Africa – in spite of some real change – Afrikaaner opinion at all levels is still indissolably wedded to perpetual white supremacy. Nothing in the tinkered new constitution touches that central core, and it is arguable that the "loss" of Namibia would not touch it either. But black unrest, white economic hardship and talk of further black advancement – developments of the last few months – are a jab in the main nerve, and so long as that nerve is jangling all other movement virtually has to cease.

Philip Howard

Latin matters, Q.E.D.

When somebody cries that some human institution, say the Roman Empire or the English language, is decadent and going to the little hounds, the robust answer is: "The woods decay, the woods decay and fall. Empires and languages develop; but decadence is an anthropomorphic way of looking at their development. Don't be so wet."

But when my friends in the Association for the Reform of Latin Teaching, who are good eggs and eggesses in spite of the somewhat laborious title of their association, send up a distress signal, I take it seriously. They are about to send out a broadsheet called "A Heritage for All", which sounds the alarm that the teaching of classics is about to disappear from maintained schools. The reorganization of the secondary school curriculum is making it increasingly utilitarian, pragmatic and functional.

What in the wide world is the point of ordinary children studying the languages and culture of dead civilizations in this, as they say, day and age? The arguments for teaching classics are old, and good. But let us just rehearse some of them, to make sure that they have penetrated into the heads of Sir Keith Joseph and his satraps in Elizabeth House, and, more importantly, of parents and children.

The élitist argument is that classics is an education for an officer class. Nor can I do better than impress upon you the study of Greek literature, which not only elevates above the vulgar herd, but leads not infrequently to positions of considerable emolument. We know, we know, Rev. Tuckwell; and it is still a rotten argument.

You can argue that a generation ago we spent a bit too much time translating Gibbon into Thucydidean prose, Marvell into Horatian Alcaics, and fussing unduly about the periphrastic conjugation of *sum* with the future participle active and the gerundive. I should resist this argument in the last ditch. A parent once complained to Richard Martineau that she found it a bit odd that a boy could pass through the Old Coll. to the age of 19 without ever being made to read Dickens, except possibly for the purpose of translation into Tacitean prose. The great man replied: "They can read Dickens in the holidays."

A better argument is that Greece and Rome are our roots. We are all good Europeans now; and you cannot understand European art, drama, literature and history without some knowledge of the myths, legend, customs, literature and history of the Graeco-Roman world, as they are taught in Classical Studies courses to 11-year-olds.

You try reading poetry from Shakespeare and Racine to Graves and Baudelaire without knowing who Helen was. How can you understand a painting like Picasso's *Guernica* without knowing about the minotaur in his shadowy maze? Music has grown farther from its roots; but a knowledge of classics can unlock the door to such diverse and supreme pleasures as Handel's *Semele*, Berlioz's *The Trojans* and the *Carmina Burana*. Classics are the key to the culture of the western world.

A second powerful argument is that classics are the linguistic key to our European heritage. More than 20,000 of the 40,000 words in common use in English are derived from Latin. The proportion is much higher in the Romance languages of our neighbours in Europe, which are the "decadent" descendants of Latin. Most of the vocabulary of science and technology is based on Latin or Greek; often, I am sorry to say, both in the same word. If you do not know about the wooden horse or Achilles' Heel, or if you cannot spot the roots of a Spanish word like *telemisora* protruding like old menhirs through the turf, you are entering the linguistic race with your legs tied together.

The classics will survive, because they are good. Clever children and bright teachers will always be drawn to them. Of course our children should learn how to work computers; they are more useful than carpentry, which we had to do. O God, O dovetail joints. Of course we need scientists and economists: on second thoughts, I am not sure about economists. But a European with no classics is only half educated. Classics will survive in the private sector for many reasons, some of them élitist. If you let them die in the curriculum of the maintained sector, what you are saying in effect is that more than 95 per cent of our children are fit for only a trog's education.

The other classroom dust-up

Lucy Hodges on the problems caused by the breakdown in teachers' pay talks

While the nation was gripped this week by the student grants issue another educational problem, equally important to a larger number of people, was smouldering away in committee rooms – the collapse of teachers' salary structure talks. It will lead to months, maybe years, of discontent, possible strikes in schools and even disruption of exams.

The announcement by the largest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, that it was using its dominant position to kill off the Salary Structure Working Party hardly sounded the stuff of which crises are made. But there is only one possible outcome: industrial unrest.

Now that the working party is dead, the sole avenue for pay negotiations is through the Burnham Committee. On past form, teachers have not done particularly well through this mechanism. Nor did they do any better last summer when they sought arbitration and squeezed out an extra 0.6 per cent after several weeks of industrial action.

This is why the other teachers' unions were so perplexed by the NUT's precipitate action against the working party, taken before negotiations on employers' proposals had even begun. They felt that the only way to get a decent pay rise was as a quid pro quo for a teachers' contract with new duties and responsibilities.

The proposals for reform, published last month after three years of preliminary negotiation in the working party, would have benefited the ordinary classroom teacher and were particarly attractive to primary school teachers, who form the bulk of the NUT's membership. The vast majority of teachers currently stuck at the top of Scale I on £8,556 a year would have been paid on the Main Professional Grade scale running from £8,500 to £11,800 a year.

Local authority employers reckoned privately that they would have to pay an extra £300 million to £400 million in the first year alone and were wondering where this money was going to come from. It is estimated that the package would have added 7 to 8 per cent to the teachers' salary bill. Would ratepayers have coughed up in the absence of funds from central government?

As it is, the employers no longer have to fret. The NUT clearly took fright at what was being demanded in return for a reformed salary structure. It disliked being required to do some lunch-time supervision (half the lunch break two days a week) and cover for absent colleagues. These are currently voluntary duties and are jealously guarded as such. By withdrawing their "goodwill" and refusing to do these duties, teachers have a useful weapon in industrial disputes and one which they often prefer to strike action.

But perhaps most of all the union abhors the notion of teacher assessment every year by head teachers, with promotion and salary increments depending on this assessment. "This package would divide Britain's staffrooms", said Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary, when he announced the NUT was pulling out of talks. "It would introduce the judge and the judged, the inspector and the inspected. It is a policy that will be abused."

His comments reflect the defensiveness of a union, and a teaching force, which feels itself under seige from a secretary of state, Sir Keith Joseph, who never misses an opportunity to decry the small minority of incompetent teachers. In addition teachers feel they are working under increasing stress, with greater demands from children, parents and society, and that they are having to do this job with fewer and fewer resources. Why should they have to undergo the equivalent of an MOT test every year as well? How much more power would that put in the hands of Sir Keith?

As Mr McAvoy put it: "The punishments within their proposals – a witholding of increments and ever-growing files on teachers, about which there can be no appeal – will be enforced by a secretary of state who has indicated he will change the regulations to prohibit teachers from teaching."

The present unsatisfactory salary structure consisting of five teaching grades below deputy head will therefore stay, blocking the career prospects of many able and energetic young teachers. Gone is the prospect of a more equitable career structure, with a three-year induction period for new teachers, teacher fellowships for the most able, and shared curriculum and pastoral responsibilities being.

While the other unions dislike some aspects of the package they recognize that, it is at least worth talking about. The second biggest union, for example, the National Association of School-masters/Union of Women Teachers with 220,000 members, thinks that not enough money is being offered, but it does not share the NUT's allergy to assessment. Teachers are, after all, assessed at present whenever they apply for a higher scale post. Secret files are kept and much favouritism suspected in a system which is known to be deeply flawed. The NAS/UWT thinks that the new proposals would put assessment on a fairer and more professional footing.

Above all, in common with other unions, it is concerned to wring more money out of the management. This week the local authorities said themselves that salary structure reform was the "only bypass round a financial roadblock". The alternative is perhaps years of industrial strife.



TIMES PAST THE TIMES
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THE FUTURE FOR COAL

As the coal strike edges slowly and painfully towards its inevitable collapse, Mr Ian MacGregor, the Coal Board chairman, has provided a useful reminder that Britain's coal industry will now require a more thoroughgoing reconstruction than seemed likely when the strike began if it is to win the long-term viability, realism and management reforms that Mr MacGregor was originally appointed to achieve. These more drastic changes should be planned if not fully set in motion during the long, agonizing but seemingly unavoidable process of attrition in which the dispute is now stuck.

There seems to have been an informal embargo on discussion of these contentious issues at the Coal Board, at the Energy Department and among ministers generally. It was thankfully broken by questions from members of the audience after an address by Mr MacGregor on wealth-creation in the ironic setting of a City church. Mr MacGregor confessed that he was personally in favour of giving mines to the miners in cases where their future was in dispute, although union attitudes presently rule this out. More significantly, he backed privatization as having a part to play in the industry's future and pointed out that legislation would be required to achieve this.

Long before the strike, the reports on the industry that led to Mr MacGregor's appointment made it clear that state monopoly had failed as a framework for the industry. That should not have come as a surprise to a Cabinet convinced of the inherent drawbacks of monolithic state corporations. It was equally clear that worker ownership should play an important role in the industry's future, given the special conditions and history of British coal mining.

The course of the strike, the damage that continues to build up each day it is prolonged, add powerfully to those arguments. The failure of a monolithic National Coal Board, underwritten by the taxpayer, to provide security of supply has turned away many potential industrial customers and persuaded others to turn to imports as an alternative. Moreover, the deep divisions opened up between different groups of miners, and particularly between different areas, will be hard to heal within the present structure. They can more easily be resolved in the context of more widespread changes and alternative forms of employment and ownership.

The Government's and the Coal Board's most pressing priority is still to end the strike as quickly as they possibly can given the continuing distaste of the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers for a ballot among NUM members or any compromise agreement for a general return to work. Any false optimism that the strike might be over by the end of the year can now be buried. The drift back to work has predictably slowed to a trickle following the expiry of the deadline for the payment of back allowances before Christmas. In the immediate future the approach of Christmas can be expected rather to cement the solidarity of strikers in closeknit mining communities.

The continuing legal squeeze on the NUM, brought by miners rather than the Coal Board or Whitehall is having a gradual effect on opinion among union officials, most of whom at least in private find the tide of violence as repulsive as the public does. The voting in the recent executive meeting and the ensuing special delegate conference was evidence of that. The Coal Board's tactics for the New Year must seek to reinforce that gradual shift of opinion

If a majority remain on strike any longer, it will no longer be feasible to maintain the Coal Board's Government-financed commitment to eschew compulsory redundancies. The loss of coal faces, equipment and long-term markets during the course of the strike mean that many more jobs will be lost, probably more than can be accommodated by moving miners. If that wholly correct principle has to be temporarily set aside, it should be those who refuse to make themselves available for work beyond a certain date who lose the benefit.

If the strike is to dribble on for some time, it also follows that, just as the Government should start working hard on plans for long-term re-structuring, so the Coal Board should set in train the review of its closure programme and possibly even the review of individual pits promised in its definitive agreement with the pit deputies' union. That agreement requires a longer and more cumbersome process for the review of individual closures and the Coal Board will probably need to do some more homework of its own in view of the criticisms of well-informed accountants.

Once the strike is effectively over, the industry will have a breathing space of about two years while pits and human relations are repaired, production builds up and coal stocks are rebuilt. That is not much time. Thereafter, the coal industry is likely to face harsher trading conditions than those assumed in Mr MacGregor's initial closure plans. By the end of those two years, the industry will expect the Coal Board to be well on the way to implementing the five-year plan called for in its agreement with the pit deputies. The public will expect the Government to have started to implement a plan for the fundamental restructuring of the coal industry.

EAST MEETS WEST IN DISASTER

The disaster at Bhopal is a hideous parody of the marriage of western technology with eastern poverty. A chemical factory of modern design to good standard was put down eight years ago just outside a city of half a million inhabitants in the state of Madya Pradesh. It is owned by an Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide, of the United States, and it is staffed wholly by Indians. Its product, material for pesticides, is of direct benefit to the rural economy of India. There quickly clustered up against the perimeter of the plant an unofficial settlement of the poor and ignorant, eager for work or pickings.

On Sunday night last the process of production went calamitously wrong. A cloud of poisonous vapour drifted towards the city. Those who were able fled in total dismay and bewilderment, some, it is reported, under the pathetic delusion that the plant was for the making of medicine. The very old and very young, unable to flee, were gassed and perished with many others. Two thousand are estimated to have died, many thousands more are likely to be disabled. The plant by irrevocable order is closed.

There are three levels of precaution to be taken in relation to environmentally hazardous manufacturing processes. The explosion here at Flixborough ten years ago hammered home the lesson. The first is to give the correct priority to safety in design, siting, installation, operating procedure and inspection. The second is to have in case of mishap either a "second chance design" for automatic correction, or some corrective procedure available to intercept an accident before it turns into a disaster. The third is to have the emergency services in the vicinity prepared and alerted in case of an environmental eruption.

Union Carbide has had a good record in its home country for safety and avoidance of pollution during the lifetime of the Indian plant. But it is a reasonable inference at this stage that someone's safety procedures and inspection were defective at Bhopal. As for the other two types of precaution, they failed utterly.

Public criticism in India is divided between the allegation that multinational companies engaged in hazardous manufacture adopt one standard of safety for use in industrialized countries and another in the third world, and the allegation that the Indian regulatory code is criminally lax. The two allegations are not entirely distinct.

There is some evidence, though not directly in this case, that two standards do operate. When that happens it is usually because the company chooses to take advantage of, or acquiesce in, the inferior local provisions for safety regulation and enforcement. The receiving country may lack the expertise or the resources to enforce the sort of standards that some of these technologies dictate by reason of the dangers clinging to them; the receiving country may also be too eager to attract the investment and the employment opportunity to insist on onerous safety or environmental conditions. That does not absolve the company, which knows about the dangers, from responsibility towards the community it is entering or responsibility for its own good name.

The judicial inquiry promised by the Indian authorities and the litigation that is more than likely to ensue will draw lines between those matters for which the company can be held to account and those pertaining to the public authorities. But outside the forums of the law there is plainly a joint responsibility on those who offer these hazardous technologies and those who receive them to learn and apply together the best current practices for the avoidance of danger.

INDEPENDENT, NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

The Prosecution of Offences Bill has had a relatively good Press. The principal reform that it embodies – separating the investigation of crimes and their prosecution by transferring the latter function from the police to an independent prosecution service – is one that most people involved in the law now see as desirable. The prosecuting solicitor's departments of police forces already provide a service of generally high quality, but the underlying principle is not at root a satisfactory one. As the agency responsible for tracking down the accused and collecting the evidence, the police have a natural human motive to wish to see their efforts vindicated. For the conduct of the prosecution to be under their control creates the opening for a suspicion of bias which is better avoided.

However, one note of anxiety was raised repeatedly as the Bill rode serenely to its second reading in the House of Lords last week. A number of speakers, including several Law Lords, expressed misgivings about the decision to make the service a national rather than a local one. Decisions about whether or not to bring a case to court ought in most cases to be made in the light of local public attitudes and other circumstances. A system where most decisions were referred up to the centre would probably be both bureaucratic and insensitive. The Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure *recommended* a locally based system, and the Government's spokesmen in the Lords were pressed with decorous insistence to offer assurance that their plans were free of the predicted dangers.

Yesterday's publication of details of the proposed distribution of functions between head office and local offices of the service helps to give substance to Lord Elton's protestations that no grasping clawing of powers to the centre is intended. In some respects local freedom to decide when and when not to prosecute will actually be increased; in others the conduct of the case will be left to the local office once the decision whether to proceed has been taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Riot, arson, immigration offences, even in some circumstances murder will normally fall to be dealt with from start to finish at local level. There will be a discretion on both sides to report up or to call in cases outside the newly diminished list of categories to be reported up as a matter of routine.

There are two main reasons for the need, in a relatively small number of cases, for head office to put its oar in. In some kinds of offence – in particular obscene publications, large, complex frauds, and murder and manslaughter where there are uncertainties regarding *mens rea* – special skills and comparative experience are necessary if a broadly consistent charging policy is to be applied. In others, political or semi-political considerations make it desirable that the DPP should retain some control over the bringing of prosecutions likely to be intensely controversial. Nationally sensitive cases involving labour relations, or locally sensitive ones where it is important to avoid the appearance that strings are being pulled behind the scenes are examples of this second type.

Officers of the Crown may also be exposed to undue political influence, or suspicions of it, of course. As Lord Diplock pointed out last week, the district attorney system works well in the United States (a federal country). But here the record of some police authorities in the coal strike has only reinforced the arguments against an arrangement based on local accountability however attractive that may be in theory – with the Chief Prosecutor standing rather in the same relationship to local politicians as a Chief Constable does today. A national service is preferable to that, so long as its rules embody wide protection for the exercise of local judgement, and so long as DPPs can resist using their discretion to call in cases all and sundry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concern on future of pensions

From the General Secretary of the Banking Insurance & Finance Union

Sir, Dr Samuel Johnson defined a pension in his dictionary as "generally understood to mean pay given to a state hireling for treason to his country".

I think – or would like to think – that we now take a more charitable and realistic view of pensions in this country. Pensions are a reward for service rendered and in a very real sense are deferred pay: working people contribute directly and indirectly to their pensions throughout their working lives.

At the moment a number of Government measures are being talked about in the field of pensions which would have the effect of negating the actual value of pension received. The most particular rumour from Government circles is that the Chancellor is proposing in his Budget next year to tax lump-sum payments received through pension schemes – either payments in their own right as part of pension fund arrangements or amounts which are commuted under the terms of the appropriate pension fund.

It would be monstrous for any such measure to be introduced and quite unfair to those millions who have estimated the pension amounts due to them when they retire and have adjusted their standards of life according to those estimates.

It may well be that the tax revenue gathered by the Chancellor in this way would contribute a little to the lowering of the Government's public-sector borrowing requirement: but is this really what is intended?

We very much hope that the Government will not countenance any unfair and discriminatory fiscal measures against pensioners.

After all, Dr Johnson was joking – wasn't he?

Yours faithfully,
LEIF MILLS, General Secretary,
Banking, Insurance & Finance Union,
Sheffield House,
17 Hillside,
Wimbledon, SW19.
December 5.

Black week for Tories in Parliament

From Mr Michael Lingens

Sir, As Conservative MPs return to their constituencies this weekend, they might reflect on the damage which they, whether as ministers or as backbench MPs, have done to the reputation of the Conservative Party over the last week.

The fandango over local government continues as Parliament bitterly contests the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan councils. Even if the Government is to be believed, ministers are optimistic that the paltry sum of £100m will be saved.

When the country faces severe industrial and social change, businesses grapple with new technology and the economy strives to be more competitive on world markets; and when more than three million of our fellow citizens are out of work and the nation should be debating future patterns of employment and measures to reduce the number of jobless, what does the Government do? It introduces a measure which, at best, is of fundamental irrelevance to the real and important issues of the day.

Then the country was treated to the unedifying spectacle of a high-principled and courageous minister humbled by his own supporters. In seeking to invest more in the country's future by requiring higher financial contributions from the relatively well-heeled to the further education of their privileged offspring, Sir Keith Joseph was humiliated by backbenchers whose motives were born of frustration and tainted by hypocrisy.

If Conservative MPs cannot face vociferous minorities in their constituency associations what hopes remain for Nigel Lawson's other proposed constraints on middle-class privileges?

Taxation of lump-sum pension payments and child benefits and the restriction of mortgage interest relief to basic-rate taxpayers – all these would be future legitimate encroachments on the hidden welfare state for the middle classes. Imagine the braying fury of some Conservative MPs, coupled with the sanctimonious insouciance of those who would simply carry on spending the money, when faced with such challenges.

At the same time further cuts in the living standards of the poorer members of society provoke no such revolts of so-called principle.

Nor is the Government blameless: Nigel Lawson has promised tax cuts of £1.5bn, for doubtful economic and political benefit. The price is uncoordinated and non-strategic public expenditure reductions in all departments, forcing Sir Keith Joseph, for example, to set off parental contributions against scientific research and adult education within his own budget, to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea.

That was the week that was in Parliament: a black week for the Conservative Party..

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LINGENS,
29 Beryl Road, W6.
December 6.

Forging UK links with Italy

From the Director-General of the British Council

Sir, Captain William Cooper (December 5) regrets the limited stock of engineering books in our Rome library. The council's library policy in Italy, as elsewhere, seeks to fill gaps – despite a heavily reduced budget – in the availability of British books in overseas countries and a number of Italian libraries have collections of British engineering publications.

We share Captain Cooper's conviction that engineering is an important aspect of British culture and he will be glad to know that a council exhibition of 300 British electrical and electronic publications is now touring Italy.

Books are only one way in which the council in Italy promotes Britain's scientific and engineering achievements. Of the traffic of people between Britain and Italy assisted by the council about a third is in scientific and technological subjects.

Our Science Officer in Rome concentrates on developing research links between institutions in Britain and their Italian counterparts; her present priority areas are aeronautical, electronic and electrical engineering.

To give but one example of many, she is currently engaged in a joint research project on multivariable control techniques applied to steering and stabilisation of surface vessels, linking the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manadon and the Istituto per l'Automazione Navale, Genoa.

Globally, over a quarter of our main budget is devoted to science and technology whilst less than 15 per cent is spent on the arts, important though they are.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BURGH, Director-General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.
December 6.

Investment at risk

From Lord Harris of High Cross and others

Sir, On the nationalisation cases before the European Court of Human Rights your Political Editor wrote (November 23): "The Government maintains, however, that the level of compensation paid by Labour and the method of valuation were reasonable".

Sir Keith Joseph has acknowledged that the terms of compensation were "grossly unfair". Yet this Government have defended the case under the European Convention on precisely the same terms as their Labour predecessors.

A win by the UK before the European Court would signal to the international community that investment in this country is exposed to exceptional risks of expropriation by a future government acting on the precedent set by Mr Wedgwood Benn in the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Act.

Unless justice is done to investors in this case, it is difficult to see how investors in British Telecom or other denationalised enterprises can feel safe against future expropriation by opportunistic politicians.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
BROOKES,
MONSON,
ORR-EWING,
House of Lords.

Racism in schools

From the Education Officer of ILEA

Sir, Racism and how to deal with it are subjects which need to be dealt with carefully and sensitively. Roger Scruton fails on both counts in his ill-tempered article, "Punish the real school bullies" (December 4). He chose to criticize four local education authorities for various aspects of the work they were doing in dealing with racism in education. I should like to put the record straight on the two factual references made in this article to the ILEA.

The first concerns Bernard Coard, the black author, who is referred to as having been an adviser to the ILEA. Bernard Coard has never been an adviser to the authority. He did indeed write a book describing the frustrations that many black parents felt about some schools, but he did so independently of this authority.

Secondly, it is quite untrue to infer that the ILEA supports the view that "all whites are racist". The authority's definitions of racism and how to deal with it are clearly set out in the authority's documents on racism and multi-ethnic education. There is no such reference in these documents or elsewhere that would lead any sensible reader to such a conclusion.

There is a further scholarly reference in the article to the ILEA as being engaged in "buffoonery of every kind". It is difficult to understand what is meant by this. I do not know about subscribers to the *Salisbury Review*, but readers of *The Times* surely deserve better comment and analysis than this.

The ILEA and the other authorities which are trying hard to deal with the deeply rooted problem of racism in our society are surely, at the very least, entitled to constructive criticism rather than ill-informed writing.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM STUBBS,
Education Officer,
Inner London Education Authority,
The County Hall, SE1.
December 6.

Survey in peril

From Dr John Physick

Sir, Your leader today (December 3) deals with the problem of the GLC's functions to be devolved to new or existing bodies. There are, however, some which appear to have been omitted from the Bill altogether. One such is the publication of the *Survey of London*, which, though promised a future in the White Paper, is not mentioned in the Bill.

This series, begun over 80 years ago by a voluntary committee under the architect and conservationist, C. R. Ashbee, and from the beginning supported by the LCC is, to use your own headline (January 4), "much too good to discard". Any threat to it must be a matter of great concern *to all those interested in the history* of London and the conservation of its wealth of historic buildings.

It is also worrying that undertakings made by the Government at earlier stages of the legislation are apparently not being honoured.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PHYSICK,
49 New Road,
Meopham,
Kent.
December 3.

Power and superpower

From Miss Alison Leonard

Sir, I wonder what was the reason for your "evil empire" editorial (November 26).

There are two questions to be asked in this context. Firstly, is the Soviet Union bent on spreading its unwelcome system round the world regardless of cost to itself? Secondly, is our defence against such a possibility a credible one?

On the first question: two things (apart from the inevitable feeling of preference for our own freedoms) strike the visitor to the Soviet Union. One is the vividness of the memory of the devastation caused by World War II with its twenty million Soviet dead. The other is the awareness amongst ordinary people of the absolute finality of the destruction which would be caused by nuclear war.

On the second question, it would be as well to ask what message our present system of defence gives to a potential enemy. One interpretation of our message to the Soviet Union is this: "We will press the end-of-the-world button if you invade". This is not a credible defence.

It is time for us to return to a genuine, small, believable deterrent. This would mean, as a first step, the cancellation of Trident. It may be that the reason for your editorial at this point was the increasing strength, on all sides of the House, of calls for this to be done.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON LEONARD,
6 Totland Grove,
Chester.
November 26.

Licensed friendship

From Dr Bruce Fogle

Sir, Governments are not the only bodies that will continue to tiptoe around dogs and dog licences (leading article, November 30). While the Government ponders where the canine vote lies, less responsible dog owners will continue to cause the rest of us to tiptoe around other articles. Where these lie is in no doubt to anyone who lives in central London.

A dog licence, administered locally, and with a ceiling of £10 a year, is a logical system. The area of exemptions, however, should be thoroughly discussed. Dogs trained by Hearing Dogs for the deaf, for example should be included with guide dogs for the blind and working sheepdogs in any mandatory exemptions.

Other exemptions for certain elderly or handicapped pet owners should also be considered.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE FOGLE, Vice-Chairman,
Hearing Dogs for the Deaf,
22 Seymour Street, W1.
December 3.

Christian feminism

From the Reverend Dr William Oddie

Sir, In her letter of November 22 Rosemary Ruether claims that "by taking a statement out of context and without giving its source" I have uttered against her a "calumnious assertion". My accusation made in a *Times* article (October 15), was that Dr Ruether has shown in her writings a "deep hatred and disgust for the Christian tradition". Dr Ruether's claim that "needless to say this is not my view of the Christian tradition at all" is, frankly, a disingenuous one.

The statement I quoted appears in her book, *Sexism and God-talk*, in the general context of a description of how, in Ruether's view, the "subjugation" of women in society has been achieved. After (in my opinion) misrepresenting firstly Aristotle, and then the Hebrew tradition, she goes on: "*The Christian Church teaches* (my italics) that birth is shameful" and that "only through the second birth of baptism, administered by the male clergy, is the filth of mother's birth remedied and the offspring of the woman's womb made fit to be a child of God".

Woman, says Dr Ruether, "must obediently accept the effect of these holy male acts upon her body". The passage as a whole conveys contempt for what she represents as being traditional teaching much more strongly than the short passage to which I was necessarily confined in my article; and it is clear from the context that it is today's Church teachings she rejects as strongly as those of the past: so much for her claim that this passage represents "a concept of maternal sexuality . . . which . . . I would hope that most Christians today repudiate".

If space permitted, other examples of Dr Ruether's hostility towards the Judaeo-Christian tradition in general, and what "the Christian Church teaches" in particular, and of how she is prepared to misrepresent them to make her point, could be given: a number of them are examined in my book *What will happen to God?*, the publication of which was the occasion of my recent article.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM ODDIE,
Pusey House,
Oxford.
November 24.

Keeping watch

From Mr N. K. Whitley

Sir, I am disturbed by your leader today (November 29) headed "We have been warned".

You distinguish three categories of communists, the third of which, you say, "actually conceal their inner convictions by inhabiting other groups as communists." I understand and can share your concern while you define these groups as communists on a political basis, "Tory or Alliance parties", since these have declared ideological premises opposed to those of the communists. I must protest, however, when you continue by including the media, the universities, teacher-training colleges etc.

As far as I am aware there is no legal ban on communism in this country. As yet (I hope) employment in this land does not depend upon political, philosophical, ideological or religious conviction.

To suggest that a journalist, lecturer, teacher by profession may not also be a communist and by inference Christian, Labour Party activist, Jew, atheist etc by conviction is to bring Orwell's 1984 a dangerous step closer to reality.

Yours faithfully,
N. K. WHITLEY,
24 Purley Bury Avenue,
Purley,
Surrey.
November 29.

Conditional aid

From the Executive Director of ActionAid

Sir, Few would argue with your leader "Value for money" (November 20), when it suggests that "the aid programme . . . should be subjected to just as much critical analysis as every other aspect of government spending." Nor would many contest that, as presently applied, the greatest proportion of foreign aid not only fails signally to "promote the interests and prosperity of the peasant in much of the Third World" but actively works against these.

In failing to observe that a portion (admittedly a minuscule one) of overseas aid expenditure *is* subject to critical public analysis and *does* effectively promote the interests of deprived peasant communities overseas, your leader may encourage those who see the aid budget as one more legitimate target in the general assault on public expenditure, and thereby reduce still further that small proportion going to help people in such need that their very lives are threatened.

Co-financing of long-term development projects by the Overseas Development Administration is an important aspect of the general aid programme. Delivered in the Third World at grassroots level by non-governmental organisations such as ActionAid, such aid makes a vital and effective contribution to the removal of the underlying causes of poverty and famine.

All such projects are subject to public scrutiny and accountability and yet they are starved of funds. In 1984 ActionAid, the largest British charity wholly devoted to Third World development, will raise from private sources, and spend overseas in support of rural development programmes, some £7½m.

To this it will be able to add £250,000 of funding from ODA and perhaps a similar sum from EEC sources. In our view this imbalance hardly represents "the authentic voice of the long-suffering taxpayer" which you seek to invoke, any more than your sweeping generalisations concerning clamour from the lobbies.

The fact of the matter is that the Government has the power, if not the will, to vote a meaningful proportion of our collective wealth for humanitarian assistance in the Third World, and the means at its disposal to ensure that a far greater proportion of it is applied effectively. It has also had sufficient recent expression of public feeling that this should be done.

Now that we have been conditioned to accept the unwillingness of the Government to take proper steps at the present time, we believe that reconsideration must be enforced. In a campaign to its supporters and the general public ActionAid is seeking to persuade taxpayers to write to the Chancellor offering to forgo their own portion of the projected £1,500bn tax cuts, so that proper resources can be applied to co-financing of overseas aid projects through non-governmental organisations.

Yours etc,
ROBIN HILL, Executive Director,
ActionAid,
PO Box 69,
208 Upper Street, N1.
November 21.

Student grants

From Professor Tom Preston

Sir, Over a third of a century ago I was at Cambridge on a FETS (further education and training scheme) grant of £187 p.a. I had volunteered for war service, aged 17½, and became 21 in uniform.

My father allowed me £15 p.a. out of his professional stipend of £1,000 p.a. The Secretary of State for Scotland discovered this and demanded a refund of £45. I objected strenuously on the grounds it was a tax-paid gift to an adult. I also offered to call at his offices and punch him on the nose for his impudence.

I was invited to do so and met an enormous man who had been an Oxford Boxing Blue, who gave me a homily but called both matters off.

History seems to repeat itself.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. PRESTON,
30 Russell Drive,
Christchurch,
Dorset.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 6: His Excellency Monsieur Theo Duval was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Haiti to the Court of St James.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mademoiselle Kelly Clermont (Second Secretary) and Mrs Margarette Toms (Commercial Attaché).

Sir William Harding (Deputy Under-Secretary of State, FOreign and Commonwealth Office) who had the honour of being received by The Queen was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen, Air Commodore-in-Chief, Royal Observer Corps, received Air Vice-Marshal G. P. Black upon relinquishing his appointment as Commandant of the Corps and Air Commodore J. Broughton upon assuming the appointment.

Mr R. A. C. Byatt was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Rabat.

Mrs Byatt had the honour of being received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening gave a Reception on board HM Yacht Britannia in the Pool of London.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, The Prince Andrew, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the National Maritime Museum, this morning attended a Trustees' meeting at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE10.

In the afternoon His Royal Highness visited AMI Offshore Resources (Director, Mr Leslie Walker) and viewed the "Goblin Machine", a maritime anti-pollution vehicle, at the West India Docks, E14.

Brigadier Clive Robertson was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this evening attended the Annual Awards Dinner of the Sports Writers' Association of Great Britain at the Wembley Conference Centre, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of the Association (Mr David Hunn).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 6: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, was present this evening at a Reception at the Senate House given to mark the seventy-fifth Anniversary of the University of London Officers' Training Corps.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 6: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this evening gave a dinner party at Kensington Palace for those involved in agriculture and the environment.



YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 6: The Duke of Kent, as Chairman of the United Kingdom Committee, this morning gave a Press Conference to launch European Music Year 1985 at the Arts Council, 105, Piccadilly, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, as President, later attended a lecture "The Arab World: Prospects for Stability" which was given by The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, London SW1.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as Controller Commandant, today received Brigadier Anne Field on her appointment as Deputy Controller Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps and Brigadier Eileen Nolan on relinquishing the appointment.

A memorial Mass for Sir Ralph Marnham will be celebrated today at noon at the Church of Our Lady, Lisson Grove.

A memorial service for Mr G. W. (Bill) Mackworth-Young will be held at noon today at St Margaret's, Westminster.

Father Jean Charles-Roux's seventieth year, his thirtieth in England, will be celebrated at St Paul's, Hammersmith, on Wed, December 12, at 6.30pm. His friends are welcome to attend.

Luncheons

Lady Mayoress
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress gave a luncheon at the Mansion House on Wednesday in honour of the Alderman for the Ward of Portsoken and Mrs Peter Levene and the Alderman for the Ward of Vintry and Mrs John Chalstrey. Members of the Court of Aldermen, the Chief Commoner and high officers of the Corporation of London were present.

Printers' Charitable Corporation
At a luncheon held in Stationers' Hall on Wednesday, by permission of the Master of the Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, Mr L Viney, tributes were paid to two members of the Printers' Charitable Corporation – Mr George Wilson, a former chairman of the PCC council, and Major-General Tony Dyball, director and secretary of the Corporation, who retires this month and will be succeeded by Captain Dan Bradby, RN.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Sir Peter Mills, MP, and Mr Ted Garrett, MP, were hosts at a luncheon given yesterday at the House of Commons by the executive committee of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in honour of The Gambia High Commissioner and the Sierra Leone High Commissioner. Also present were Lord Irving of Dartford, Mr Fred Silvester, MP, and Mr Peter Cobb.

Parish Clerks' Company
After their St Nicholas Day Eucharist which was celebrated yesterday at the Church of St Botolph without Aldersgate, the Master and Wardens of the Parish Clerks' Company entertained the brethren and their guests at a buffet luncheon at Haberdashers' Hall.

London University Contingent OTC
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, was present at a reception held yesterday evening at Senate House by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel N. J. Claypoole, officers and officer cadets of London University Contingent OTC.

Butchers Company
The Master of the Butchers' Company, Mr William A. Woolhouse, presided at a court luncheon held yesterday, at Butchers' Hall. The toast to the guests was proposed by Mr Graham A. Jackman and Dr Bernard Matthews, President of the British Turkey Federation, replied.

Dinners

City Livery Club
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were present at the annual dinner of the City Livery Club held on Wednesday at Guildhall. Mr Joe Brown, president, presided accompanied by Mrs Brown. The other speakers were the Hon Peter Brooke, MP, the Lord Mayor, Lord Lane, and Alderman Christopher Collett.

Society of County Treasurers
The annual dinner of the Society of County Treasurers was held last night at Painters' Hall. The president, Mr Geoffrey Pollard, Director of Finance of West Yorkshire County Council, was in the chair and the principal guests and speakers were Sir Frank Layfield, QC and Mr James Dundas Hamilton. Representatives of county councils and local authority associations and the heads of Civil Service Departments were also present.

Anglo-Indonesian Society
The Anglo-Indonesian Society held its twenty-fifth annual dinner last night at the Portman Hotel. Baroness Vickers, chairman, presided and the guest of honour was Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The Ambassador of Indonesia, patron of the Society, also spoke. The Ambassador of the Philippines and the High Commissioners for Malaysia and Singapore were among those present.

Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences
The Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences held a dinner at the Royal Society last night to mark the completion of Mr G Smart's three-year term as president. Mr Smart was assisted by Mr R G Fewell, president-elect, in welcoming vice-presidents, council members and guests.

Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers
The Master of the Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, Alderman Bryan E. Toye, presided at a livery dinner held in Guildhall last night. The guests, who were received by the Master, and Mrs Toye and the Wardens, Mr R. W. E. Payne, Mr R. R. Elliott, Mr Richard M. Thorpe and Mr Godfrey M. Davis, and their ladies, included:
The Swiss Ambassador and Mme Piclet: Sir Stephen and Lady Brown: Alderman Sir Edward and Lady Howard: Sir James and Lady Stubbs: Sir Michael and Lady Colman, Commander and Mrs MBS Higham: Lieutenant Commander and Mrs J F Tuckett: Alderman and Mrs F McWilliams and Mr and Mrs Peter May.
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were present at a dance held after dinner.

Baroness Trumpington
Baroness Trumpington, who was chairman of the committee in 1979-80, entertained members and guests of the Air Transport Users Committee at Dinner in the House of Lords yesterday.
Those attending were:
Viscount Garnock (chairman), Robin Duff of Meldrum (deputy chairman), Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Sir Archibald Hope and Mr Norman Ashton Hill (past chairmen), Viscountess Garnock, Lady Boyd-Carpenter, Mr and Mrs R P Bolwood, Mr and Mrs E Buckhalter, Mr and Mrs H E Collis, Mr and Mrs J E Cox, Mr and Mrs T C Dickey, Mr and Mrs B M Huffner, Mr and Mrs M Johnson, Mr and Mrs D Kane, Captain and Mrs J V Lewis, Mr A J Lucking, Mr and Mrs G T Lyall, Mr R McCrindle, MP, Sir Henry and Lady Phillips, Mr and Mrs J D Pinkerton, Miss A Redmile, Mr and Mrs S Shaw, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Brian Stanbridge (director-general), Lady Stan-bridge and Mr K Thomas.

Makers of Playing Cards' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sherriffs and their ladies, were present at the annual dinner of the Makers of Playing Cards' Company held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, Judge Argyle, QC, presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Lord Denning, Dr J M Rae, Mr Alfred Neate and the Senior Warden, Mr Peter Simkins.

Glass Sellers' Company
Mr P S Northam was installed as Master of the Glass Sellers' Company, Mr D Williams-Thomas as prime Warden and Mr P J Willoughby as Renter Warden, yesterday before a dinner held in Stationers' Hall. Among those present were:
The Hon C B Moynihan, MP, General Sir John Gibbon, Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Cunningham, Judge Birks, Major Generals L A W New and S T C Watson, Brigadier J A Clifford, Mr R J Maxwell-Hyslop, MP, Mr V C Hender, the Master of the Barber Surgeons' Company, the immediate past Master of the Glaziers' Company and the President of the Bishopsgate Ward Club.

Service dinners

17th/21st Lancers
The annual dinner of the 17th/21st Lancers was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier J. W. Turner, presided.

Memorial service

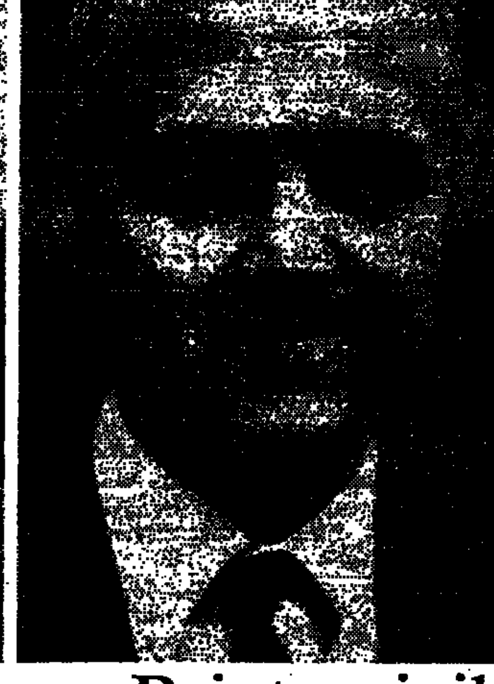
Sir John Lang
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Lang was held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Right Rev A. W. M. Weekes, Honorary Chaplain of the Royal Naval Association, also representing the Chaplain of the Fleet, and Rev Charles Hedley and the Rev L. E. M. Claxton, Chaplain of the Samuel Pepys Club, officiated. Jonathan Cox, a pupil at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, and Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, read the lessons. Sir Clifford Jarrett gave an address. Neville Atha, headboy, Royal Hospital School, carried Sir John's orders and decorations to the altar and the standards of the Royal Naval Association were carried by members of the association.

Others present included:
Mr and Mrs A G Brown (son-in-law and daughter), Miss O C Brown, Mrs P Hayter, Mr and Mrs J Jennings, Mrs P Harvey, Mr R Goddard, Mrs R Goddard, Mrs I Haine, Mr and Mrs D Brierley.
Defence and naval attachés, Sir Philip Moore, Sir Patrick Nairne, Mr Denis Howell, MP, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi (Commander in Chief, Naval Home Command), Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, Vice-Admiral Sir Frank Mason (Shipwrights' Company), Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh and Lady MacKenzie, Commandant Dame Nancy Robertson, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn, Sir Arthur Hockaday, Sir William Cook, Sir Freddie Warren, Lady Jarrett, Sir James Jones, Sir Ronald Melville, Sir Paul Osmond and Lady Osmond (representing the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals), Sir Edward Playfair, Sir Richard Powell, Rear-Admiral J A Bell (Royal Naval Association) with Mr J Riley (representing the president); Rear-Admiral E W Ellis, Commandant Daphne Swallow (director, WRNS), Rear-Admiral A J Whetstone (chairman, Admiralty Dramatics Society), Rear-Admiral M C Morgan-Giles, Rear-Admiral Colin Madden (Order of the Bath), Air Vice-Marshal J N Jones (representing the Air Force Board), Mr M A B Kirk (headmaster, Royal Hospital School, Holbrook) and Mrs Kirk, with Mr A J Gibson (president, old boys association), Mr G J Walker (headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School) with Mr H W Adcock (Old Askean Association); Lieutenant-Colonel C D L Pepys (chairman, Samuel Pepys Club) and Mrs Pepys with Mr L B Prince (honorary treasurer); Mr F H Hackman (chairman, Pepys House Charitable Trust) and Mrs Hackman, Mr Jolyon Dromgoole (representing the Army Board) and Mrs Dromgoole, Mr J H B Chapman.
Mr D M Dell (deputy secretary, Department of Trade and Industry), Mr Simon Wingfield Digby, Mr J Peters, Mr N H Nicholls, Mr M G Power, Mr and Mrs A A Pritchard, Mr K J Pritchard, Mr D E J Jago, Mr Richard Lloyd Jones (deputy secretary, Welsh Office), Mr D Kimber, Dr Denis Rebbeck, Mr Peter Mahew, Mr W Marshall, Mrs M A Glen-Haig, Mr S Redman, Mr R C Shawyer, Mr R N Simeons, Mr J H Taylor, Major and Mrs D Tennyson-d'Eyncourt, Mr J M Widecombe, Captain A B Sainsbury (vice-president, Navy Records Society), Lieutenant-Commander J G Shilcock (Sea Cadet Association), Miss R G Hughes (Sports Council) with Mr L Wright; the Rev Kenneth Loveless (Anchorites) and Mr A N Phypers (National Westminster Bank) with Mr G M Nixon.

University news

Edinburgh
Dr Gordon Hughes, Cambridge University lecturer in economics, has been appointed to the George Watson's and Daniel Stewart's Chair of Political Economy, from July 1, 1985.





Woman to govern Brixton jail

Miss Joy Kinsley, who has been appointed the first woman governor of Brixton prison in south London, and Mr Colin Allen, governor of Maidstone jail, in Kent, who is to replace her as governor of Holloway women's prison, London.

Miss Kinsley, aged 52, said yesterday her appointment was "a great challenge". She was the first woman governor in charge of male prisoners; at Pucklechurch remand centre, Bristol, for men and women.

Mr Allen, aged 42, has not previously worked in a women's prison. At Holloway he faces conditions recently criticized by the National Council for Civil Liberties as "disgraceful".

He said: "I think the prison experience generally is a damaging one by its very nature. We ought to be about reducing as far as we can the damaging effects of it".

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. A. R. Bain and Miss A. J. Frost
The engagement is announced between Mark Alexander, only son of Commander and Mrs H. E. R. Bain, of Doveridge House, Neachley, Shropshire, and Alison Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Frost, of Sutton Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Mr T. F. B. Cooper and Miss L. G. Banks
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs A. Cooper, of Pulborough, Sussex, and Lynn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L. G. Banks, of Aldwick, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Mr I. Corbett and Miss A. Manning
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs C. B. Corbett, Winnersh, Berkshire, and Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. L. Manning, Mhangura, Zimbabwe.

The Hon P. L. Gray and Miss B. M. Willcox
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Lord and Lady Gray of Contin, of Drummond Road, Inverness, and Bridget, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G. R. Willcox, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr J. F. Davis and Miss S. R. Redding
The engagement is announced between John Francis, Royal Signals, younger son of Mr and Mrs A. Davis, of Willington, Bedfordshire, and Shane Rosanne, only daughter of the late Rajh Redding, MBE, and of Mrs Maureen Sayers and stepdaughter of Mr J. Sayers, of Beckenham, Kent.

Mr J. R. Kropman and Miss L. A. Connick
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Dr and Mrs M. Kropman, of Edgware, Middlesex, and Lesley, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. L. Connick, of East Sheen, London.

Mr P. J. McIlvenny and Miss A. K. Straume
The engagement is announced between Peter James, only son of Mr and Mrs James McIlvenny, Shipley, Bradford, and Anne Kirsti, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arnfinn Straume, Denton, Ilkley.

Mr R. A. Newcombe and Miss C. J. J. Owens
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Allan Newcombe, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Joyce, elder daughter of the Rev Cecil and Mrs Owens, of Portadown, co Armagh.

Mr A. J. Pendlebury and Miss H. C. Davies
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs F. Pendlebury, of St Anne's-on-Sea, Lancashire, and Clare, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Davies, of Starkey Castle, Rochester, Kent.

Mr A. C. Porter and Miss L. Assassa
The engagement is announced between Alistair, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Porter, of Cambridge, and Leila, daughter of Mrs T. Assassa, of Mabrook, Prestbury Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Mr B. M. Roohan and Miss S. N. Woodage
The engagement is announced between Brian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Charles Roohan, of Port Macquarie, New South Wales, Australia, and Sally Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Woodage, of Rogate, West Sussex.

Mr I. C. Porter and Miss S. S. Ripley
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Porter, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Stephanie, daughter of Dr and Mrs H. Robert Ripley, of San Francisco, California.

Mr I. S. Tennant and Miss C. V. Martel
The engagement is announced between Ivo, son of the late Mr I. Tennant and Mrs Tennant, of Appledore, Kent, and Carole, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs C. P. Martel, of Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Captain P. G. Walker and Miss G. F. V. White
The engagement is announced between Peter Gordon Walker, Royal Signals, only son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs S. G. Walker, of Shorncliffe, Kent, and Gillian Faye Venner, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs K. G. White, of SHAPE, Belgium and Deal, Kent.

Mr D. T. Wall and Miss M. C. Zannini
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mrs M. E. Wall and the late Mr W. L. Wall, of Columbia, South Carolina, and Mary Claire, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. J. Zannini, of Lake Forest, Illinois.

Mr J. N. White and Dr V. A. Mumford
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr and Mrs Colin White, of Alwoodley, Leeds, and Virginia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Garth Mumford, of Noss Mayo, Devon.

Lieutenant J. A. Zinn, RN and Miss S. L. Church
The engagement is announced between John, son of Councillor and Mrs A. V. Zinn, of Bitterne Park, Southampton and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. M. Church of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Caird Medal

Mrs McKee, widow of Commander Eric McKee, RN, was presented with the Caird Medal by the Duke of Edinburgh at a private ceremony at the National Maritime Museum yesterday. Commander McKee was awarded the first Caird Medal, posthumously, for conspicuously important work in a field of the museum's interests.

Birthdays today

Sir Fred Atkinson, 65; Mr Donald Crichton-Miller, 78; Lord Elystan-Morgan, 52; Sir Terence Garvey, 69; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, 61; Sir Bryan Hopkin, 70; Major-General R. E. Lloyd, 78; Mr Eli Wallach, 69; Miss Helen Watts, 57.

Latest wills

Mr Guy Darnley Naylor, of Fulham, London, left estate valued at £71,191 net. After other bequests he left £5,000 each to the London School of Economics and the Institute of Economic Affairs, desiring that it be used in each case for a scholarship, prize or award to women students starting a career in financial journalism.

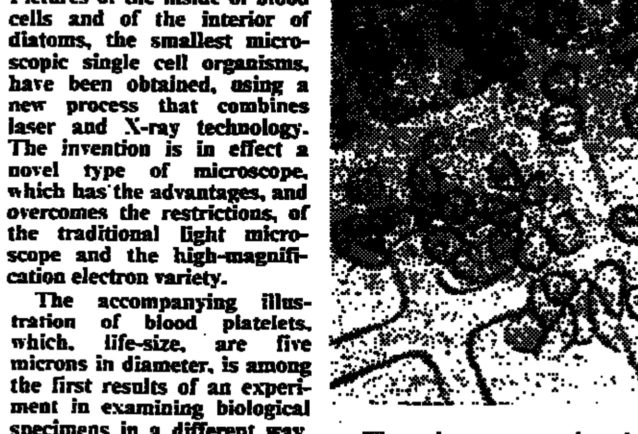
Science report

Seeing inside the cell

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Pictures of the inside of blood cells and of the interior of diatoms, the smallest microscopic single cell organisms, have been obtained, using a new process that combines laser and X-ray technology. The invention is in effect a novel type of microscope, which has the advantages, and overcomes the restrictions, of the traditional light microscope and the high-magnification electron variety.

The accompanying illustration of blood platelets, which, life-size, are five microns in diameter, is among the first results of an experiment in examining biological specimens in a different way. The pictures were obtained through a remarkable collaborative venture involving Drs Roy Rosser and Ken Baldwin of Imperial College, London; Ralph Feder of the Brookhaven Laboratory, in the United States; Rob Eason of Essex University and David Bassett and Adrian Cole of the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, near Oxford.



The microscopy project is one of the experiments made possible with a unique and powerful laser, called Vulcan, built at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory as a central research facility for universities.

The method for examining biological specimens is called single pulse X-ray emission. It is a technique that begins by focussing a laser beam on a spot smaller than half a millimetre on a carbon fibre delivering 30 joules of energy in one nanosecond (one thousand-millionth of a second).

The intense heat produced on the tiny spot creates for a fraction of a second a minute cloud of super-hot plasma. As the carbon atoms reach this highly volatile plasma state they give off a concentrated burst of soft X-rays, which are absorbed easily by carbon-based tissues.

So the X-rays have been exploited to overcome the fact that optical microscopes have insufficient resolution for looking at very small cells, and electron microscopy is applicable only to dry dead specimens in a vacuum.

Specimens thriving in a culture are examined. But they are placed on a tiny "photoresist" plate on which a clear X-ray image is formed, and that image is magnified by electron microscopy, as in the picture, which shows living structures not previously visible.

OBITUARY

MR RENÉ LEDÉSERT
Major contribution to teaching of French

Mr René Ledésert, the lexicographer and editor who died on November 26, was remarkable for his efforts to bridge the gap between the French and English languages, a task which culminated in his major revision, with his wife Margaret, of the Harrap French and English Dictionary.

His impressive contribution to the teaching of the French language was acknowledged by the French government with the award of the *Palmes académiques* in 1962.

Born in Normandy in 1913, he came to England after completing his legal studies and taught for some years at Eton. From there, in 1946, he moved to George G. Harrap & Co, the publishers, as Modern Languages editor, and joined the board ten years later.

Soon after his appointment, he was engaged in publishing a wide range of new and innovative language books, rapidly expanding the existing Harrap modern languages list until, by the early 1960s it was in the forefront of language teaching. He not only published in the main school language, French, but also in German, Italian, Russian and particularly in his third language – Spanish.

He guided the creation of a series of critical school texts of contemporary authors which have been the mainstay of advanced level examinations for years.

Towards the end of the 1950s, Ledésert became more and more concerned with the updating of the Harrap French Dictionaries which had been edited by his predecessor, Dr J. E. Mansion, some twenty years earlier. Beginning with supplements to the Standard Dictionaries, he, his wife Margaret, and a large group of full time and freelance helpers carried out the task of revising the entire Harrap dictionary programme, culminating in four volumes of the New Standard Dictionary completed in 1980, for which he was awarded the first Whitbread prize.

All who knew René Ledésert will remember his vast good humour and equally vast anger, his marvellous love of food and wine, his remarkably hospitable houses in Berkshire and Provence, his deep appreciation of art and architecture and his unswerving love of France and Britain and their contradictory and often untranslated tongues.

MR PETER BRENT

A correspondent writes:

Peter Brent, the writer, who has died at the age of 53 might well have been described by the phrase which formed the subtitle to his last published work: *Charles Darwin – the man of enlarged curiosity.*

Peter Ludwig Brent arrived in this country as a Jewish child sent out of Nazi Germany in the months immediately before the Second World War. He went to school in Wales until he was sixteen and something very attractive in his voice and manner always bore witness to that period of his life.

Leaving school determined to be a writer, he went through a typical if extended apprenticeship – cleaner, journalist, kitchen porter, teacher, film extra, et cetera – before publishing *Exit*, his first and exceptionally promising first novel, twelve years later. If the promise was never quite kept, this may have been owing to that very quality of enlarged curiosity. He went on to write two more novels, half a score of thrillers (under the name of Ludovic Peters), some narrative history, several biographies, three or four radio plays, scripts for film and television.

In 1972 he published *Godmen of India*, a study of the gurus of India which grew out of many months of travel when he visited and lived in ashrams all over the country. He wrote of his researches neither as sceptic nor devotee but as a man aware of the reality of spiritual endeavour who could yet examine its often dubious manifestations with detachment and penetration.

These latter qualities, as well as a fascination with the process of scientific discovery, were very evident in his exhaustive biography of Darwin (1981), which can be seen, after *Godmen of India*, as a further expression of his perennial interest in the relationship of science to religion. At the time of his death he was working on a study of Indian medicine – a field, one might say, where science and religion become indistinguishable – and was contemplating a long-cherished wish to write a major biography of Thomas Huxley.

Although he died of cancer, he lived the last years of his life under the shadow of an ailing heart which characteristically he found a great corrective even to the little self-importance he possessed. He was a very kind man with a touch of innocence to him, yet sharp a steel behind his gold-rimmed glasses: sharp but never wounding, never doctrinaire.

PROFESSOR FRITZ GROSSMANN

Professor Fritz Grossmann who died on November 16 was an art historian internationally respected for his dedication and scholarship. His main studies were in northern European art, but his generous sympathies also made him an advocate of modern artists and a valued teacher.

He was born on June 28, 1902, the son of a doctor who became a general in the Austrian army. He studied art history in Vienna under Josef Strygowski, and wrote his doctoral dissertation on Austrian late Gothic painting. In the 1930s he combined historical work with writing about contemporary Austrian artists, and interviewing them for radio.

In 1938, with the assistance of his friend the collector Count Antoine Seilern he came to London as assistant to the Rubens scholar Ludwig Burchard. His continuing interest in Rubens was complemented by work on other northern artists, notably Dürer, Holbein, and Hollar; but his special contribution was the excellent monograph on Brueghel published in 1955.

In 1961 he joined the staff of the Manchester City Art Gallery, from which he retired as Deputy Director in 1966. His scholarship enriched the collection and informed his catalogues for exhibitions, of which a particular success was *Between Renaissance and Baroque* in 1965. Another instance of his skill was in identifying a previously unknown allegorical picture by Holbein, now in the National Gallery of Scotland.

On leaving Manchester, he accepted a chair at the University of Washington in Seattle; his international outlook and the extensive range of his knowledge were greatly appreciated, and the university conferred on him the title of Professor Emeritus.

In his retirement in London the Austrian government also recognised his distinguished contribution to art historical studies by awarding him the Cross for Science and Art.

SIR DUGALD STEWART

A friend writes:

Dugald Stewart was a man of rare courage and wit. Many who knew him, both in the Foreign Service and in Scotland, recall gratefully the pleasure and the stimulation of his company.

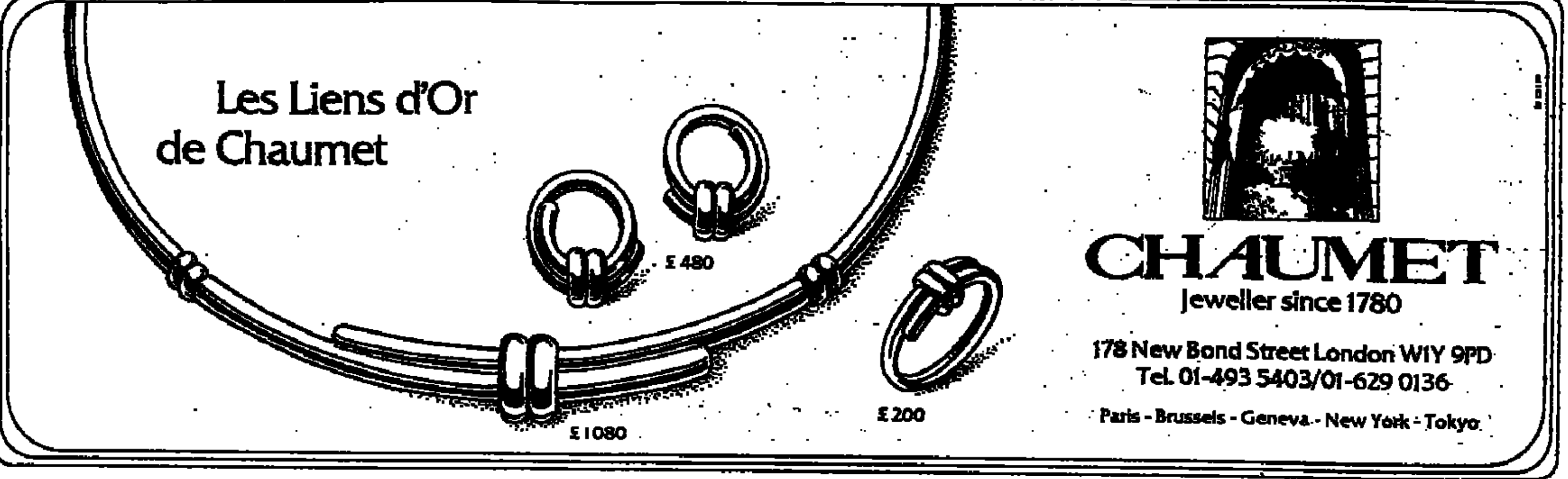
He served with distinction in many difficult places (Berlin, Moscow, Cairo), but it was in Yugoslavia that he was specially valued: there he began his diplomatic career as Third Secretary, and there he ended it as a well-loved ambassador; there too he met and married Sybil Sturrock, who had been decorated for her service alongside the partisans in the war.

Both spoke Serbo-Croat, and had many Yugoslav friends, who greatly liked their mixture of cordiality, astringency, and affections for the country.

Retirement gave him the welcome chance of returning to Scotland: he was a notable sportsman, and the remoteness of his home in Appin did not diminish his enjoyment of life.

Dugald Stewart fitted no stereotypes, either as chief of his clan or as diplomatic representative of his country; and those who knew him prized a certain uniqueness in his character. They greatly enjoyed his friendship and greatly mourn his passing.

Lady Le Rougetel, widow of Sir John Le Rougetel, KCMG, former Ambassador to Iran and Belgium and High Commissioner in South Africa, died on December 4. She was the former Mary Penrose-Thackwell, and they were married in 1925; he died in 1975.





London theatre


Paul Cox

Business is brisk in the West End, where every theatre has a show running or soon to open, and in the inner suburbs, helped by musical revivals and the emergence of new impresarios

A mere 10 years ago, London theatre enjoyed a settled health so apparently indestructible that it was taken for granted. This weekend, as the Society of West End Theatre meets to announce its annual Laurence Olivier awards, the mood is one of relieved optimism following the patient's recovery from some very nasty turns. At the blackest point in 1982 a dozen theatres were actually dark. Now every West End theatre has a show either running or soon to open. SWET's half price ticket booth in Leicester Square is still drawing big queues even now the tourist season is over, making it one of London theatre's liveliest advertisements as well as selling 1,400 tickets a day.

Meanwhile the Fringe presents a range of offerings from brilliant to best-forgotten, at a bewildering number of venues that seems to increase every month.

In short, London theatre, like theatre in general, is clearly indestructible and if we lost our formal West End theatres we would not have to do without plays. What we would lose, apart from some enchanting buildings, is the West End's element of scale and showmanship, that sense of occasion; and, while immensely relieved by signs of survival, I still find the quality of the product a cause for concern. There are far fewer interesting shows running in the West End now than there were 10 years ago, for a host of reasons ranging from rocketing production cost to the creaming off by the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company of star players and plays that would otherwise have graced Shaftesbury Avenue for nine months or a year at a time.

So I am not sure that the SWET or any other awards, however vital their part in giving the theatre news value, are a wholly unmixed blessing. In undistinguished years, not only does an indifferent play or musical get an award; the nominations system means that four receive some sort of acclaim and can plaster it all over the theatre. We all know that some shows have run undeserved for years, but crying hype too often will eventually be found out and, since the public is not stupid, ignored. Some critics, too, used to be prone to wild hysteria, which is presumably why critical raves (and damns) don't dictate box-office response the way they do in America: and thank heaven for that.

This year has been great for musical revivals: drop into a Drury Lane or Cambridge Circus pub after showtime if you doubt the genuine pleasure that *42nd Street* and *On Your Toes* are giving the public. (It is a special relief to see a big success at the Lane, whose future was causing concern.) But, both in the fare offered and the prices at which it is offered, the predictions that London would increasingly resemble Broadway are proving true. Ironically, our best plays are currently providing Broadway with some of its biggest successes.

Ray Cooney's Theatre of Comedy operation has, paradoxically, given us our finest feast of farce in ages. But for comedy there is little more than the unexciting choice between *Stepping Out* and that rather thin little brood of Ayckbourn octuplets, *Intimate Exchanges*. There is a dimension of sophisticated entertainment (American musicals have their own) which is no longer catered for.

And though serious plays, from *Another Country* to *Annie Wobbler*, still appear in West End theatres (usually as transfers, from Greenwich and Birmingham Rep in those two cases), this category, like that of intelligent comedy, points to a new and ominous divide between fringe and West End. Such outstanding new plays at the Bush Theatre as *Topokana Martyrs' Day* and *Hard Feelings* had to turn crowds away every night, but were not transferred to the West End and, sadly, might not have been successful there. Hardly any West End theatre holds even as few as 500 seats (as against below 100 at the Bush), and that larger number must be filled at prices twice as high – and the audience must also be enticed into central London. The growth of *local* theatregoing – residents of W12 popping into the Bush, those of Hammersmith to the Lyric, those of Islington to the King's Head, Swiss Cottage to the Hampstead Theatre – is a trend that will certainly continue and contribute greatly to the health of theatre in London, but not of theatre in the West End. Nor, worst of all, can it pay playwrights more than a pittance.

I have every sympathy with SWET and can't pretend to offer them a solution. But one of the big problems, keeping up the standard of the shows, is too often played down. The West End may substantially be turning into a showcase for transfers – from "off-West-End" theatres like the Lyric Hammersmith or the Old Vic, or from regional theatres – and, though this is sometimes deplored, I see nothing wrong in taking a product with popular appeal, putting it on show in the centre of town and giving it the flattery of a beautiful old theatre.

But the most encouraging sign is the emergence of new impresarios – not to the detriment of established ones, as Michael Codron's dominance of the theatres down the Strand and the Aldwych proves – but each cultivating flair for a particular kind of show, links with a particular branch of theatre, and working relationships with individual playwrights. They are really confident that the West End can be made to work. And it shows.

Anthony Masters

All photographs by Suresh Karadia


Palace revolution: the magnificent bar of the great theatre has also become a popular eating place

Wonder of the new discoveries

Quite apart from the shows we see, the actual experience of theatregoing in the West End has changed, and it must. Even 10 years ago, West End theatres were cosy old places whose atmosphere had not changed for 20 years and more (many of them seemed not to have been redecorated or refurnished in that time) and which seemed to cater for a cosy, and perhaps old, clientele. Matinees, where interval trays of tea, biscuits and fruit cake were handed over rows in the interval to pairs of middle aged women, were only just beginning to be invaded by summer hordes of American students and tourists. In the evenings, sophisticated visitors left expensive hotels to spend time (at very low prices, certainly) in auditoriums and bars that must have seemed not only tatty but incongruously outmoded.

All that has begun to change and not only with the handsome new interiors at the National, the Barbican, and the rebuilt Lyric Hammersmith, all of which also offered the best creature comforts of air-conditioning or heating, smart lavatories and comparatively elaborate catering. James Nederlander transformed the Aldwych, using its natural Edwardian grace to create an environment of coolly superb style. Capital Radio spent a king's ransom on the little Duke of York's, removing all the pillars, doubling the bar space and restoring the gilded rococo house like a delicious piece of confectionery. Ed Mirvish, whom God likewise preserve, ripped out the Old Vic's terrible old foyer and crammed bars and turned the battered old auditorium we all loved into a silver-set Victorian gem that still seems like a new discovery. And when Andrew Lloyd Webber really gets going on the Royal English Opera House, alias the Palace Theatre, whose plum-painted marble so grieved the late Sir John Betjeman, we shall see wonders.

These antiquated buildings, like London's many fine churches (whose plight seems not too different), eat up money in so many ways the public does not see, from that complicated acreage of leaky roofs that form a paradise for filthy pigeons to the dressing rooms that, when built, were often a notorious health hazard. Even those at the new Barbican are described as uncomfortable, and apart from those smart little places hidden away in the bowels of the National there are few in London as inviting as those at, say, the Arts in Cambridge.

Like churches, theatres spend only a tiny portion of the week's hours actually playing host to that particular occasion for which an audience arrives. The problem of daytime use constantly raises its head, only to disappear unsolved. The Mayfair, constructed more like a hall than most, does a steady conference trade but the others only awaken in the daytime intermittently for auditions, rehearsals and Equity meetings.

The Alberys, who tried so many things at one time or another, have done a steady trade for some years now by opening the Albery Theatre's upper circle bar for light lunches. Now, under Mr Lloyd Webber's ownership, the magnificent mirrored and barrel-vaulted saloon in the depths of the Palace has quickly established itself as a lunchbar that actually lays on entertainment: a blues singer, a guitarist, a comedy group, a classical pianist perhaps. For one week a month the shows are staged in the theatre, with a small admission charge: Christmas week promises carols and Zippo the clown, while the Hogmanay lunch party on New Year's Eve should ensure that suitably little work is done in Soho offices that afternoon.

The Palace's inviting food is also available in the evening, which creates a welcoming impression even if you're not hungry. I am not persuaded that theatres need to offer food, unless mainly for profit. It is true, of course, that curtain-up times are particularly awkward for eating: it is quite difficult to fit in a good play and a good dinner in the same evening. As many a tourist has found, once out of the theatre at 10.30 pm or so you need to move pretty smartly towards the restaurant of your choice (and preferably have it booked) if you are not to miss the boat.

No wonder that the many theatreland wine bars like the Cork and Bottle or Solange's do a roaring trade, but inevitably they close at 11 pm, and anyhow around midnight the transport system is packing up. Perhaps, now that the question of Sunday theatre opening is being looked at as an aspect of London's facilities as a whole, someone will take an equally co-ordinated look at weekday licensing hours and last-train times. But you could equally well argue that, though tourists might like a later curtain-up, suburban-dwellers might resent killing an hour or two after leaving the office and prefer a start around 7 pm.

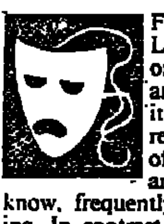
Food aside, there is the interval drink problem and we have yet to see such elegant solutions as the circular bar I remember from (I think) the Zurich Schauspielhaus, with a circular queue served by calmly swift relays of staff. You can of course, pre-book interval drinks (Covent Garden has a tiresome tendency to refuse because of lack of space), which often gets you a table as well, and at the New London spirits are usefully handed out in the famous "Catpacks".

Continued on next page



LONDON THEATRE

Absolutely nothing is beyond the people who run the Fringe



Fringe theatre in London is not only intimate and very cheap; it is also, as regular readers of *The Times's* arts page will know, frequently very rewarding. In contrast to New York, London recognizes no distinction between the equivalents of "off-Broadway" and "off-off-Broadway". The Royal Court and the Hampstead, while not in the West End, are handy "off-Broadway" theatres, and while most pub theatres belong in the "off-off" category there are some (like the Bush and the King's Head) distinguished enough to belie the term's connotations.

By their fruits ye shall know them, it is difficult enough to know in advance whether a good venue has a duff show in or whether a little piece of genius is showing at a little remote pub. Nor, for good reasons, do West End transfers naturally follow for quality productions. But a number of theatres demand regular checking out – and, such are the politics and economics of the game, the top league is in a constant state of flux.

First the "off-Broadway" section. Foremost is the Lyric Hammersmith, a unique example of a Victorian theatre's reconstruction in a modern theatre with modern facilities. The Lyric's survival through the main part of the twentieth century, since the original building was opened in 1888, owes a great deal to one palmy period under one genius. Sir Nigel Playfair and his productions in the 1920s and 1930s gave it a particular connexion with comedies of the Georgian (his *Beggar's Opera* fixed that work in the ranks of the classics) and Restoration periods.

The building itself, a rare and exquisite instance of a small auditorium by the hand of the great theatre architect Frank Matcham, is particularly well suited for such plays and has recalled that association with recent William Gaskill productions of *She Stoops to Conquer* and *The Relapse*, as well as a Toby Robertson *Beggar's Opera*.

When the King Street Mall shopping precinct was projected in the late 1960s, the Lyric stood right in the path of it, was in poor structural condition and had long been in the middle of a losing streak. I remember sad days sitting in the public gallery during the inquiry to decide its fate, with Victor Mishcon, QC (now Lord Mishcon) pleading courteously on its behalf and the suggestion that the Matcham plasterwork be detached for use in a new theatre being made by the prosecution counsel in the confidence that any new proscenium house was a pretty risible idea.

As it turned out, the pendulum swung back and the plasterwork was replaced, with the subtlest modifications, to give today's audiences the charming surprise of finding a 500-seat Victorian gem embedded two floors up in a modern block. The block, now open for five years, incorporates not only air-conditioning and (usually excessive) heating but a restaurant with a big terrace for open-air drinking and, more important, an adaptable and very attractive studio theatre with an excellent success record.

But it is worth stressing that, despite the Lyric's favoured position in the heart of a shopping street, you only need to nip into local pubs in the interval clutching your programme to be met by interested inquiries from local residents who have still never set foot inside. Here, as everywhere, theatre's cause still needs pleading.

Another astonishing survival, this time owing its kudos to the great regime of Joan Littlewood in the 1950s and 1960s, is the Theatre Royal, Stratford, E15. It has spent many years trying to convince Londoners that, being on the Central Line as well as the main British Rail line east from Liverpool Street, it is not at the ends of the earth. But when I first visited it 20 years ago it certainly seemed like it: a Coronation Street of two-up-two-downers with a faint glimmer at the far end took you from the station to the gaily decorated little building with a Victorian-tiled hall leading through to a bar where (it is said) the Krays regularly held court on Joan's first nights, and a staircase decorated with now-vanished Bill Tidy cartoons ascending into a dinky little auditorium.

It was tatty then and still needs a lot of money, but the refurbishment appeal will receive a new impetus this month with its centenary celebrations. And, after a predominantly classic repertoire policy by the Stage Sixty company failed to draw central sophisticates out to Stratford, it has done better by fostering Stratford links, as anyone who has enjoyed a Christmas pantomime among the locals or seen the West Indian Trevor Rhone's *Two Can Play* in a joyfully packed house can testify.

The King's Head's presiding genius, Dan Crawford, is happily still with us and this Victorian pub opposite Islington Church in Upper Street remains a rare London example of dinner-theatre, not with that term's bland American associations but as a great experimental venue. You sit at long check-clothed tables, whether you come for the pre-show dinner (recently improved again) or not: and the atmosphere, oddly enough, is just as conducive to serious as to light entertainment. I well remember dropping my eyes from the stage during a pause in the mesmerising first act of *Kennedy's Children* and discovering an almost cold cup of coffee in front of me, tactfully refilled by a waitress and unnoticed by me for the previous half-hour.

The Theatre Upstairs and Riverside Studios are comparative newcomers. The Theatre Upstairs still seems so, but it is 15 years since the room on top of the Royal Court – which drew the crowds as Clement Freud's nightclub in the 1960s was converted into an experimental studio that radically changed the scale of the English Stage Company's operations and gave an extended run to plays that might otherwise only have been for a Sunday-night showing in the little main theatre below. By contrast, Riverside's auditoria (formerly BBC studios) are vast and hangar-like, tending to swallow up small-scale shows but used to marvellous effect by Peter Gill in early classic productions like *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Changeling*.

Belying its romantic name, Riverside squats between council blocks and a waste riverbank site, just at the point where you wonder if you're going anywhere; but the food in the self-service eatery is good, the seats are comfortable.

AM



The audience let their beer go flat at the King's Head, Islington, while the actor sparkles

Wondrous discoveries

From previous page

But facilities are hampered by historical fact: so many theatres date from an age when large bars were unnecessary because they were only used by men. You cannot do much about an architectural division into three balconies, but this does seem an area where the consequences of social change have not been properly faced.

The wind of change is also blowing through the box office. Computers have not yet advanced far beyond the four Wyndham theatres and the Theatre of Comedy group, but only the other day a major booking agency, Edwards and Edwards, unveiled their Prestel system and the entire old procedure of screaming agents' phones, box-office queues and telephone bookings has been dealt a further blow by the spread of phone purchases on credit card.

The staff, too, are getting younger. Having spent a few years doing it myself, I may be biased, but I was (and am) impressed by the way most clerks' tempers stand the strain and I have certainly never worked with more pleasant people. As receptionists and salesmen (not to mention accountants, telephonists, information bureaux and complaints departments) their manner is important: and the bad old habit of giving them so little financial incentive will have to end one day.

Still, some nice traditions adapt to all changes. At Her Majesty's we had a cat that used to sleep on next year's booking plans in the warmth of the halogen lighting; now I see that the boys at Sadler's Wells, which is computerized, have one that basks just as comfortably on top of a terminal. At the Shaftesbury, Ray Cooney has already introduced a 20 per cent bonus scheme for all staff.

Since the public is usually going to the theatre for pleasure, a fine combination of hostmanship and commercial sense will be necessary to carry West End theatres over into the 21st century. Examples like the Lloyd Webber management at the Palace, with its immense financial resources admittedly, raises hopes. These old buildings do eat up money, but they also have superb potential as pleasuredomes.

Alongside the Palace's expanding programme of lunchtime entertainment is the multi-million-pound restoration project that is currently investigating Britain's few remaining terracotta firms for refurbishing its much-eroded exterior.

AM



Zip goes a million on a West End musical



Theatre-watchers have seen it as one of the most significant trends in the last few years. The idea of established and artistically sophisticated regional companies coming up with many productions which with only few adjustments go into the West End and become big hits has meant excellent cost savings – as Peter Hepple, editor of the *The Stage*, the weekly theatrical paper, points out.

The regional theatre, operating on an Arts Council grant, pays for scenery and costumes, then shares production costs with its West End partner.

He cites the case of the Haymarket, Leicester, with *West Side Story* and *The Hired Man* both transferred; and the musical *Me and My Girl* is running there at the moment, already fixed for the Adelphi in London.

Mr Hepple says: "This two-way traffic, sometimes suggested by West End commercial management, sometimes the regional theatre, has created a rather different situation for backers. The only backing you need is the cost of transport to the West End – in the case of a musical, perhaps a larger orchestra which might go up from 12 to 25 musicians. *The Hired Man* has five".

The regional company gets its name on programmes and posters but usually takes a small financial cut. Most regionals, Mr Hepple says, need deficit budgeting: make profits and you lose your grant.

There is also more investment now by theatre owners themselves, which contrasts with the old days when the show itself depended on private money and the theatre owners got the show in and collected the rent for the theatre. Today the shortage of shows means owner investment in production. Ray Cooney is a case in point, says Mr Hepple: he has two theatres and shows in three others.

So what does a West End show cost to put on? A musical would come in at around the £1-million mark; structural alterations to the theatre, as with *Starlight Express*, means another £500,000.

According to one estimate, that particular Andrew Lloyd Webber musical will be in the black by the first week in February, which means about a year to recoup its investors.

As for the straight play, a modest production with a cast of four can cost £65,000 at least to stage; a figure of £150,000 is not unknown. Backers will be guided by the fact that a particular producer presents a play. "Some", says Mr Hepple, "would always be good for £5,000 if Michael Codron puts it on".

The Society of West End Theatre (SWET), which has started a token scheme to boost ticket sales, is convinced that the average theatre ticket at less than £10 represents exceptional value compared with other forms of entertainment (Broadway's average price is $30 – about £24), has been making careful studies designed to produce information for the potential theatre-goer who wants a more streamlined evening out: how to get there, where to eat, what time the show ends.

A SWET official said: "We identified, for example, that there was a lack of information about bus and train availability. There are the senior citizens' matinees which offer discounts and we are promoting students' standby schemes".

Stuart Harding began packaging rail/theatre/concert trips when he was made redundant by British Rail 18 months ago. Growth, he says, has been tremendous, and his turnover is now just under £1 million with 50,000 bookings this year made through his St Albans-based business.

Another man who has made life easier for the potential theatre-goer is Jules Boardman, formerly of the National Theatre, managing director of Ticket-master, a computerized booking service installed in a number of West End theatres but which now extends into the High Street. Mr Boardman says: "It takes the box office to your doorstep", he says.

Ticketmaster is installed in six London branches of W H Smith at Putney, Kensington, Hammersmith, Ealing, Bromley and Croydon and Mr Boardman predicts considerable expansion. "In many cases you pay exactly the same price for your tickets as if you bought them at the theatre."

So there has been an electronic revolution and the theatre is reaping the benefit, both in the gadgetry in *Cats* and *Starlight Express* and in the sophistication of the new ticket selling methods.

Kenneth Gosling



They queue every day for half-price seats for the West End shows at the ticket booth in Leicester Square, whether it's wet or dry. They sell about 1,400 seats a day. But it rarely rains *Cats* tickets . . .

Why they go down well at New End

Some years ago when the Red Buddha Theatre appeared at the Piccadilly, Wyndham Theatres Ltd sold correctly warm *sake* in little plastic cups for auditorium consumption. So successful was the experiment that wine-laden ushers ply their trade in their theatres to this day. Otherwise it is only in a pub theatre (provided you are not occupied with a notebook and pencil) that you can clutch a drink to increase your hilarity or temper your displeasure.

Pub theatres, of course, can justify themselves by their work alone; it was the Old Red Lion in St John Street, Islington, that first staged *Crystal Clear*, which remained an overwhelming experience even after a West End transfer. You might imagine that the pubs themselves would be of the vaguely arty variety, like the Queen's Elm in Chelsea, or at least have theatrical connections, like the Lamb and Flag in Covent Garden where Dryden got mugged shortly after rewriting *Antony and Cleopatra*.

The reverse is true. The Bush, on a corner of Shepherd's Bush Green, is a busy, noisy Irish pub; the Old Red Lion, whose facade bears the saddening inscription "Built 1415, rebuilt 1898", is quite ordinary except for its back patio with an arbour full of flowers. As for dress, the more informal the better; but the contrast with the meticulous costuming and set on stage, especially at the highly professional Bush, is marked. So too at the Gate, Notting Hill, where once you've seen the nice Victorian stained glass in the Albert downstairs, you've seen the pub, and the theatre is quite bare. Lou Stein's other Gate, over the Latchmere pub in Battersea, is the most elegant pub theatre in London – at least it is until it closes on December 15 because of "lack of funding" says regretful publican Nigel Walters.

Other venues, still not sufficiently known, include a converted church hall, a converted Order of Foresters' hall and a converted mortuary.

The ominously named New End (yes, this is the former mortuary) sits down the side road of that name off Hampstead's Heath Street right opposite the hospital, which must have been convenient for its former function.

This, too, is a real charmer with its steeply raked seating (excellent sightlines) that shakes whenever someone in the row laughs, and its little top bar and buffet connected to the back of the stalls by a mysterious door. It is a symbol of resurrection if ever there were one. London theatre lives.

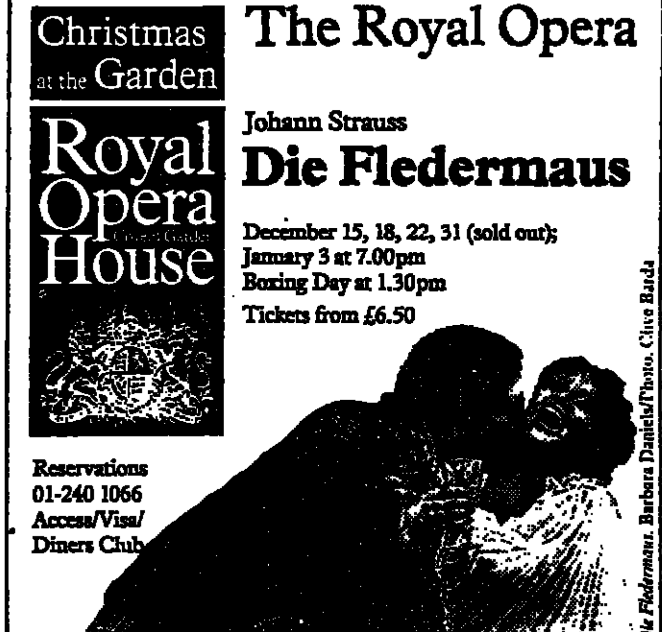
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Who owns what

Theatre	Freehold	Leasehold
Adelphi	James Nederlander Theatres	Musical Plays
Albery	Maybox Group	Wyndham Theatres
Aldwych	James Nederlander Theatres	
Ambassadors	Ambassador's Theatres	
Apollo	Stoll Moss Theatres	
Apollo Victoria	Land Securities	Apollo Leisure (UK)
Astoria	London Life Assurance	L P Marsh (Properties)
Barbican	Corporation of City of London	RSC
Coliseum	Stoll Moss Theatres	English National Opera
Comedy	GCT Management	
Covent Garden	Royal Opera House, Covent Garden	
Criterion	Maybox Group	Wyndham Theatres
Donmar Warehouse	Maybox Group	Wyndham Theatres
Drury Lane	Duke of Bedfords Estate	Stoll Moss Theatres
Duchess	Gomba Holdings	
Duke of York's	Capital Radio	
Fortune	Prince Loadsman	MAP International
Garrick	GLC	Gomba Holdings
Globe	Christ's Hospital	Stoll Moss Theatres
Haymarket	Crown Estates	Frederick Harrison Trust
Her Majesty's	NZ Government Property Commission	Stoll Moss Theatres
Lyric	GLC	Stoll Moss Theatres
*Magic Castle	Venus Magic	Charles Mather
Mayfair	Grand Met Hotels	
Mermaid	City of London	Gomba Holdings
National	GLC	South Bank Theatre Board
New London	English Property Corporation	New London Theatre Centre
Old Vic	Ed Mirvish	
Open Air	Royal Parks, DoE	New Shakespeare Theatre Company
Palace	Andrew Lloyd Webber	
Palladium	Stoll Moss Theatres	
Phoenix		GCT Management
Piccadilly	Maybox Group	
Prince Edward	Land Securities	Bernard Delfont
Prince of Wales	Land Securities	Prime Presentations
Queen's	Christ's Hospital	Stoll Moss Theatres
Royal Court	Cadogan Estates	English Stage Co
Sadler's Wells	Sadler's Wells Foundation	Sadler's Wells Trust
St Martin's	Willoughby de Broke Family Trust	Peter Saunders
Savoy	Savoy Theatre	Sir Hugh Wotner
Shaftesbury	Theatre of Comedy	L P Marsh
Strand	Strand Theatre (part of Louis I Michaels Group)	
Vaudeville	Michael Codron	
Victoria Palace	Star (Great Britain)	Stoll Moss Theatres
Westminster	Westminster Memorial Trust	Westminster Productions
Wyndham's	Maybox Group	Wyndham's Theatre

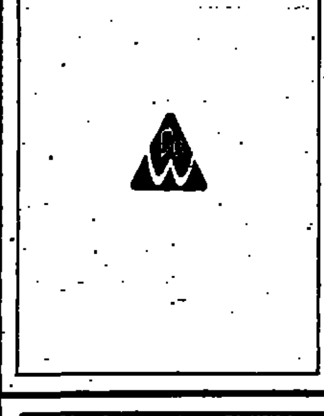
* formerly Cambridge

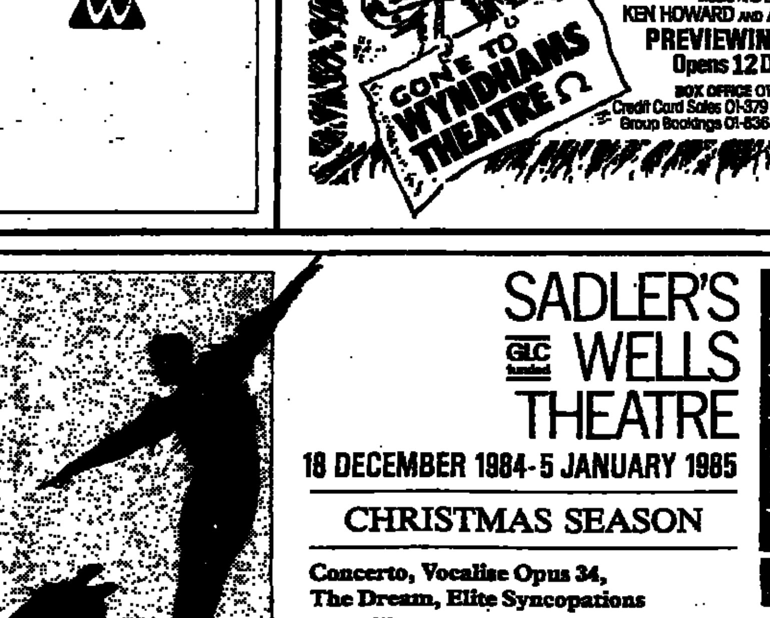


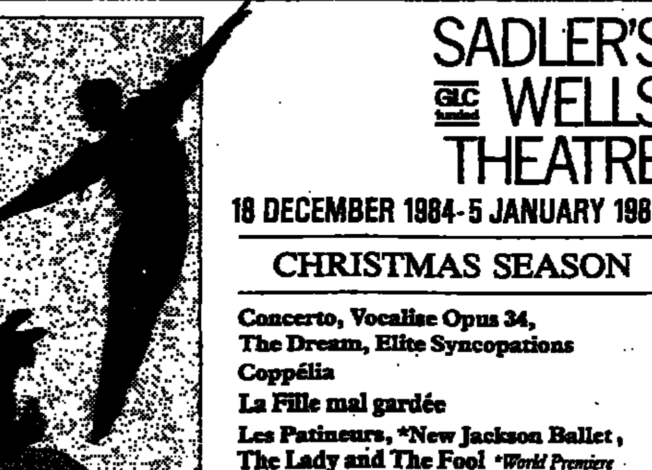


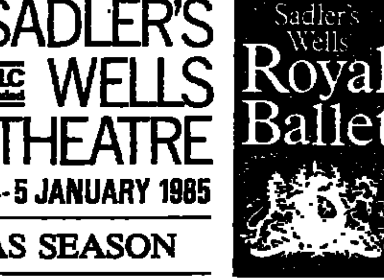












STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market depressed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 26. Dealings End, Today. § Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	INDUSTRIALS S-Z	
1	Sketchley	
2	TNT	
3	Smith & Nephew	
4	UKO	
5	Westland	
6	Tellos	
7	Six Hundred	
8	Spencer Clark	
9	Silentnight	
10	Tomkins (FH)	
	BUILDING & ROADS	
11	Gleeson (MJ)	
12	Monk (A)	
13	Smart (J)	
14	Redland	
15	Tarmac	
16	UBM	
17	Phoenix Timber	
18	Bryant	
19	Lawrence (Walter)	
20	Bullock Johnsen	
	FOODS	
21	Brown	
22	Kwik Save	
23	Banks (Sidney C)	
24	Glass Glover	
25	Rowntree Mac	
26	Nthn Foods	
27	Assoc Dairies	
28	Cliffords Dairies	
29	Dee	
30	Cres Milling	
	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
31	Brooke Tool	
32	Dewhirst	
33	Brown (John)	
34	Boulton	
35	Bullough	
36	Pegasus	
37	Brown & Tawse	
38	CH Ind	
39	Cope Allman	
40	Dee	
© Times Newspapers Limited	Your Daily Total	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red yld %
SHORTS (Under Five Years)								
105.41	100.98	Treas	15%	1985	101.01		14.850	9.411
102	99	Exch C	12%	1985	100		11.927	9.750
97	93	Treas	3%	1985	97		3.090	9.763
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas	11%	1985	100		11.404	9.879
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas C	8%	1985	[illegible]		8.822	9.881
104	[illegible]	Exch	12%	1985	102		11.988	9.795

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
349	250	Gerrard Nat	322	-2	17.1	5.3	9.0
66	45	Guinness Peat	57	..	0.8	1.5	21.0
183	121	Hambros	190	-3	9.0	6.0	15.7
16	9	Do (50p)	£13		89.5	6.9	13.6
350	235	Hill Samuel	313 ●	-3	15.4	4.9	8.9
78½	48½	HK Shanghai	77½	-1	..b	..	..
313	228	Joseph (Leopold)	233	..	16.1	6.9	12.2
178	124	King & Shaxson	172 ●	..	11.8	6.9	14.6
480	320	Kleinwort Benson	385	-5	17.9	4.6	8.7
542	422	Lloyds	497	-12	34.9	7.0	4.2
83	48	Lon Scot Fin	54	-1	3.8	7.0	10.5
42	24	Mannon	25		1.4	5.7	9.8
423	408	Mercury Secs	418	-5	16.4	3.9	4.8
439	277	Midland	359	-8	36.4	10.1	5.9
390	193	Nat Aust Bk	238 ●	-5			
696	420	Nat West	562	-12	36.2	6.4	4.4
72	57	Ottoman	£70		450	6.4	10.7
198	144	Provident	185	-2	13.6	7.3	7.9
100	72½	Rea Bros	80	+2	1.8	2.2	25.9
20½	14	Royl Bnk Of Can	£17½	..			
246	194	Royl Bnk Of Scot	226	-8	12.1	5.4	7.1
908	625	Schroders	718		23.6	3.3	12.0
370	280	Secombe M	330 ●	..	28.6	8.7	10.9
71	48	Smith St Aubyn	63 ●		6.4	10.2	5.7
679	442	Stand Chart	469	-5	40.0	8.5	6.5
783	612	Union	723		48.8	6.7	11.9
59	42	Wagon	59	..	3.9	6.7	16.0
38	23	Wells Fargo	£38	..			
256	195	Wintrust	220	..	6.1	2.8	14.6

BUILDING AND ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

FINANCE AND LAND

FOODS

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
208	135	Fleet	189	-1	7.1	3.8	13.7
280	170	Haynes Publishing	280	..	17.1	6.1	15.2
173	138	Home Counties	138	..			
173	141	Independent	141	..	12.0	8.5	..
514	380	Int Thomson	487	..	14.0	2.9	10.1
785	410	Link House	750	..	22.4n	3.0	18.2
242	192	Liverpool	226	+1	16.9	7.0	16.8
500	380	News International	500	..	12.1	2.4	..
655	540	Octopus	650	-6	13.7	1.8	34.2
175	148	Portsmouth Sund	152 ●	..	5.7	3.8	7.8
348	265	Utd Newspapers	315	..	28.7n	8.6	17.8
139	73	Webpress	137 ●		4.4b	3.2	16.3

OIL

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000

Claims required for +24 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

FINANCE

Executive

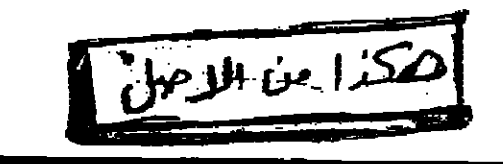
MPs' d

shadow

Predatory GEC still cash-rich

Matthey set for £25m capital aid

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent



THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

MPs' doubts cast a shadow over tax cuts

The Treasury and Civil Service Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Terence Higgins, Financial Secretary to the Treasury in the Heath government, yesterday added its voice to the criticism of present methods of public spending control. Important though this is, the committee's points on the Treasury's autumn statement have more immediate interest. In particular, the £1.5 billion of tax cut or "implied fiscal adjustment" for the next Budget which the committee maintains is "predicated on a group of questionable assumptions".

The assumption that caught the committee's eye concerned the exchange rate, and its effect on oil revenues. In evidence, Sir Terence Burns, the Government's chief economic adviser, conceded that a 10 per cent fall in the sterling oil price would eliminate the £1.5 billion fiscal adjustment. When oil prices remain under pressure and, at the same time, a downward correction in the dollar is expected, the committee is right to question the Treasury view that a sterling oil price of nearly £24 barrel will persist through 1985-86.

This figure is calculated from an exchange rate of $1.20 and a North Sea oil price of $28.65 a barrel, the situation prevailing when the Treasury put the finishing touches to the autumn statement. In theory sterling would have to rise to a little over $1.30 given a stable dollar price for oil, before the scope for tax cuts disappeared.

The committee is sceptical about next year's public spending planning total of £132 billion and, in particular, assumptions that the public sector pay bill will rise by only 3 per cent and that local authority current spending will be cut by 2 per cent in real terms.

This year's revised planning total of nearly £128 billion may also be exceeded, the committee says, noting that: "Estimating errors have occurred during years when inflation has been even less than initially expected – a situation that will not necessarily continue to prevail."

Well-made though these points are, the committee's report, the first of the 1984-85 session, is something of a disappointment. As the published evidence shows, the committee failed to extract much either from the Chancellor of his civil servants.

One of the autumn statement's mysteries became a little clearer yesterday. The third quarter balance of payments figures showed a £1,110 million surplus on invisibles, against the working assumption of £250 million a month. This produced a third quarter deficit, seasonally adjusted, of £542 million, and a cumulative deficit of £497 million in the first three quarters of 1984.

Bad though this is, the EEC rebate, received in October, and the normal upward revision of balance of payments statistics, should allow the Treasury's zero current account estimate for 1984 to be met.

Predatory GEC still cash-rich

GEC picked up a further five million of its own shares yesterday and told the market it was open for more. By the close last night Britain's largest manufacturing company had bought in 35.1 million at a cost of £80 million it was hard going. The brokers de Zoete & Bevan had been in the market for 15 hours, offering to buy the shares at a fraction over 288p each.

Shareholders who sold for cash had been given, and had taken the opportuity to lighten their load of a hitherto unrivalled stock; and perhaps increase a disappointing allocation of British Telecom shares. Holders who looked disdainfully at the price on offer and refused to sell should benefit from the expected increased earnings this year and the resulting rise in earnings per share.

As with all new games, it takes time for players to become familiar with the rules. GEC is pleased with the response; it has not expected to draw out anything like the 40 million shares it was willing to buy. Moreover it is rare for a board of directors to give money back to shareholders. The logic is clear enough: if GEC could not think of what to buy with its cash mountain then the shareholders individually should be given a chance to find a home for it. Most companies prefer to ignore it, believing always that the board knows best.

GEC still has £1.6 billion on call and the key, as always, is the price. British Aerospace is a good example. It is almost tailor-made for GEC but with Aerospace shares at 355p, Lord Weinstock remains uncommitted. Notwithstanding the greater wariness of GEC, it is unlikely to sit on its hands for ever.

Guarantees wanted for warship yards

The course of privatization rarely runs smoothly, especially when more than one Whitehall department has an interest in the outcome. So it is with the Government's plans for privatizing warship yards. The Ministry of Defence and the Treasury are keenly involved in the sale of the yards, which is the responsibilty of British Shipbuilders and its sponsor department, Trade and Industry.

Since the summer, Lazard has been busy drawing up detailed sale documents for each of the seven main yards. Offers are already in for one of the minnows, the patrol boat yard of Brooke Marine at Lowestoft. However, the review of defence and navy spending being undertaken for Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, is casting a shadow over sale preparations for the rest.

In particular, reports that the future of the Navy's new Type 23 frigate programme maybe in question has caused ripples of unease among potential bidders. All the warship yards are heavily dependent on the MoD as the predominant customer, but the frigate programme is critical to the future of Yarrow, Swan Hunter, Cammell Laird and Vosper Thorneycroft.

With each Type 23 frigate worth £100 million or so (the exact cost is a matter of contention), there was already concern that overcapacity in frigate building meant that not every yard could be kept busy with the rate of ordering that the Navy was thought to have in mind. If there are to be even fewer orders – none at all according to the wildest rumours – it would be very serious.

Vosper Thorneycroft, Swan Hunter and Cammell Laird are still waiting to hear where the long delayed orders for two Type 22 frigates, worth more than £140 million each, are destined to go. A decision is promised by Christmas, after what has been almost a pantomime of protracted Whitehall indecision.

Rumours about the Type 23 programme are reliably said to be without foundation. Lazards appears to be confident that this is so and hopes to put out packages of financial information about Yarrow, Hall Russell and the Vickers nuclear submarine yard at Barrow by Christmas.

There are none the less genuine jitters among bidders, who will want some sort of assurance – formal or otherwise – about likely future ordering levels.

Share flotation 'to pay for EuroRoute Channel link'

By Jeremy Warner

The £4,400 million plan to build a combined bridge and tunnel cross Channel link would ultimately be financed by a huge "British Telecom-like" public share flotation, Sir Nigel Broackes, chairman of Trafalgar House said yesterday.

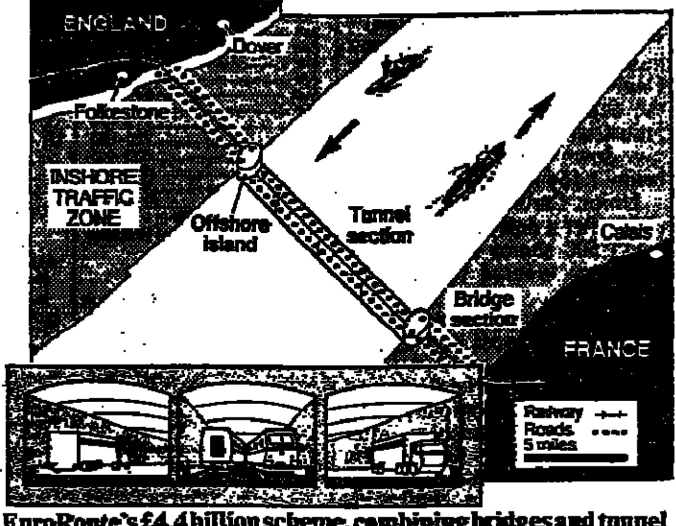
Sir Nigel was speaking as he took over from Mr Ian MacGregor as British chairman of Euro Route, the Anglo French consortium responsible for the proposal, which is one of six schemes competing for fixed cross Channel link project.

And he said he believed the Government would be in a position to decide which of the six schemes to adopt by March.

Sir Nigel said he believed the idea of the link was now closer to realization than ever before following the joint statement made by Mrs Thatcher, and President Mitterrand of France at the Paris Summit.

The statement said that such a link would be "technically feasible and financially viable" and that the time had come to take the next step.

Britain and France has set up a joint working party to fix the



EuroRoute's £4.4 billion scheme, combining bridges and tunnel

conditions under which such a link would be constructed and operated. It is due to report in February.

Sir Nigel said to be believed the political will was in place to carry the idea through.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport described his March time scale as "a little optimistic". The department said that the brief of the working party was to "establish the rules of the game" and it would only be after these rules had been set out that the rival consortia would be invited to submit detailed proposals.

But Sir Nigel was adamant. He said: "Maybe I am naive and starry-eyed about this. Either it is going to happen very quickly or it will not happen this century."

He envisaged a major public share issue in Britain and France "of the order of British Telecom but phased over the life of the project," as the most likely form of finance. Sir Nigel said he was satisfied that the medium-term banking finance for the scheme could be raised without Government guarantee.

Trafalgar House has a large share stake in the consortium and stands to gain much new contruction work for its fabrication yards if the EuroRoute scheme is adopted.

The EuroRoute is one of the most expensive of the rival Channel link proposals. A report published in May by five British and French banks dismissed the proposal as unviable but Sir Nigel claimed yesterday that the report's findings had been based on "obsolete data."

"I do not think that the twin bore rail only tunnel solution will bear serious scrunity. Sir Nigel said. He thought that the EoroRoute scheme, although more expensive, had significant advatages in creating substantial job opportunities in traditional industries away from the Channel sites.

Ferry group to sell St Andrews hotel stake

By Cliff Feltham

The cross Channel ferry operator, European Ferries, is close to a further deal aimed at streamlining its activities and raising about £7 million or more by selling its 50 per cent interest in the prestigious Old Course Golf and Country Club next to the Old Course at St Andrews, Fife.

The involvement has been a costly experiment for the group, which embarked on the project two and a half years ago during the expansionist reign of its late chairman, Mr Keith Wickenden.

The most likely buyer of the stake is the group's partner in the hotel, Mr Frank Sheridan, a businessman who ran the Classic cinema chain before selling out for £6.8 million during the mid seventies to Mr Laurie Marsh's Intereuropean group.

The Old Course Club was bought from British Transport Hotels as part of its privatization for £1.35 million, but an estimated £10 million has been spent on extensive improvements to create a 150-room complex up to five-star standard and marketed around the world.

Mr Roger Braidwood, the finance director of European Ferries, added that Mr Sheridan "is in a not inappropriate position to offer us a deal." The hotel stands in the group's books at between £6 million and £7 million and Mr Braidwood said: "we will not sell at a loss."

Mr Sheridan said: "I suppose I am the logical person to buy their stake." He had sufficient financial resources to reach a deal which is likely before the end of this year.

European Ferries has two other hotels, at Larne in Northern Ireland, and at Dover, but these tie in more closely with its ferry business and are unlikely to be sold.

The group has been busily slimming back to its mainstream businesses, which have involved the sale of the Singer and Friedlander merchant bank for £52 million.

Dunlop investors to lobby Pegi board

By Ian Griffiths

Representatives of the Dunlop Shareholders Association will meet directors of the Malaysian Pegi Corporation next week. Pegi has a 26 per cent stake in the ailing tyre and indusrial products group.

The meeting is part of a lobbying campaign designed to keep the dilution of equity investment to a minimum when details of the long-awaited capital reconstruction, expected shortly, are announced.

The association presented its own plans for the shape of the reconstruction to Pegi's financial advisers in London yesterday. Its proposals call for a withdrawal from tyre activities through the sale of the US and South African operations and estimated that about £240 million could be raised through these and other assets sales.

The main concern of the association is that shareholders will lose out in the reconstruction to the banks and they are keen to restrict the amount of the £380 million debts of the company which are converted into equity.

It has therefore suggested that new money be raised by a combination of cumulative redeemable and convertible preference shares linked wth a floating rate loan note and rights issue, which would raise about £200 million.

One of the main problems for the association is mobilizing the support of the 38,000 Dunlop shareholders who hold fewer than 1,000 shares.

GUS tops £100m

Great Universal Stores, the Burberrys, Home Charm and Times Furnishing retail group, yesterday reported record half-year profits of £105.1 million, an increase of nearly £13 million. Sales were £53 million up at just over £1 billion.

The net effect has been push earnings per stock unit up from 21.77p to 24.32p, paving the way for an interim dividend of 6.25p against 5.5p before.

The main engines of growth were mail order, Burberrys and the financial division, which includes Global Holidays. Furniture was static in a difficult market.

BP alters Wytch Farm plan

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Oil companies led by BP have decided to change their plans for developing the Wytch Farm oilfield in Dorset after running into fiece opposition to their original scheme which included drilling on the Studland peninsula, a beauty spot and nature reserve.

The plans to drill on the peninsula will be shelved for four years and may be scrapped eventually, company officials said yesterday.

Mr Michael O'Sullivan, manager of the Wytch Farm development, said: "There's no doubt that people have been very steamed up about the Studland proposals".

The BP consortium is planning instead to drill wells from other sites in and around Poole Harbour.

Last week it applied for planning permission to drill its first appraised wells on Furzey Island, the 31-acre estate which it bought this year from Mr Algy Cluff, the oil entrepreneur and magazine proprietor.

Mr O'Sullivan said that BP now hoped to drill as many as 25 wells into the Wytch Farm reservoirs

Short Bros sale mooted

The Government has decided that the Belfast aerospace company, Short Brothers and Harland, is suitable for privatization, and is to seek advice on its disposal.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Douglas Hurd said in a Commons written reply that specialist advice would be sought about the feasibility, costs and benefits of disposal, including how best to secure employee involvement. "In deciding eventually whether to proceed to sell, the Government will in particular wish to give full weight to the importance of the company in the Northern Ireland economy", he said.

The company, which employs 65,000, is working on the Tucano trainer aircraft with a Brazilian company, and is involved in work for the European Airbus A310-200.

Hanson gains

Hanson Trust reported pretax profits up from £91.1 million to £169.1 million for the year to the end of September. The final dividend is up from 2p to 3.25p, making a total of 5p against 3.33p last time and a one-for-two capitalization issue is proposed.

Tempus, page 21

Ferranti ahead

Ferranti, the electronics group, has reported a 25 per cent increase in pretax profits up from £14.8 million to £18.5 million for the half year to September 30.

Tempus, page 21

BOC record

Pretax profits at the BOC Group, the gases, health care and carbon products concern, improved by 44 per cent to a record £138 million in the year to September 30.

Tempus, page 21

Bass profit up

Profits at Bass, Britain's largest brewer, for the 53 weeks to September 30, rose from £175 million to £218.4 million, and the dividend goes up from 11.36p to 12.90p.

Tempus, page 21

Duty concession

The Inland Revenue has ruled that Harvard Securities, the licensed dealers, is a qualified dealer and need pay only 50p stamp duty when it buys USM shares as a principle – the same as stockjobbers.

Matthey set for £25m capital aid

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Johnson Matthey plc crossed the first hurdle on the long road back to financial health yesterday as shareholders at an extraordinary meeting voted overwhelmingly to approve a £25 million capital injection and an increase in the group's borrowing powers.

Approval of the £25 million injection, in the form of convertible preference shares, was crucial to ensure the continued support of the industrial and precious metals refining group's bankers, who have provided a £250 million standby credit line.

Mr Neil Clarke, chairman, said the group would still need more capital and this was one of the matters being studied by the accountants, Coopers & Lybrand. He said that talks with BP, which is considering whether to bid for Johnson Matthey plc, were still continuing.

Although watered down from the initial proposals, the £25 million capital injection still favours Charter Consolidated. Its stake will increase from 27.9 per cent to at least 33.34 per cent and a maximum of 46 per cent if no other shareholders take up their rights.

Despite the steep fall in Johnson Matthey plc's share price from 240p before the near collapse of its banking subsidiary two months ago to 68p yesterday, the extraordinary meeting was good tempered and devoid of hostile questioning by shareholders.

Accountancy link cleared

The final external barrier to the merger between Price Waterhouse and Deloitte Haskins and Sells, which would create the world's biggest accountancy firm, was removed when the Department of Trade and Industry said the proposed link would not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The DTI ratified the Office of Fair Trading's finding that if the merger went ahead there would still be sufficient choice for users of audit services.

Voting by partners in both firms takes place on December 13 in Britain and will be completed by December 14 in all other offices

Dilemma for gold market

By Michael Prest

Members of the troubled London Gold Futures Market yesterday decided that, for the time being at least, winding up the market would not solve their problems. But the struggle to find a new identity for the market is far from settled.

Sources on the board said that the morning meeting had been called to guage the feeling of the market. Some 80 representatives of the 38 floor members and 16 non-floor members voted by a show of hands to explore how to keep the market alive.

They face two options, which will be discussed at a board meeting this month and presented to floor members in January. One, which looks increasingly attractive, is to continue for another year

The advantages of this course are that 12 months' notice is needed for termination of the lease and that it would allow extra time to write down costs. Optimistic members also hope that the low volume which has endangered the market could improve. An alternative is to link up with another market. But it is understood that the initial enthusiasm for cooperating with the London International Financial Futures Exchange is fading as tax problems emerge.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	908.4(-6.5)
FT-A All Share	564.55(-3.32%)
FT Govt Securities	83.54(-0.12)
FT-SE 100	1176.3(-7.1)
Datastream USM	104.18(-1.97)
New York	
Dow Jones	1172.25(+0.66)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,559.66(+16.47)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1120.74(-15.34)
Amsterdam:	177.5(-1.4)
Sidney: AO	727.3(-10.5)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1097.2(-5.6)
Brussels:	
General	159.16(+0.64)
Paris: CAC	181.4(-1.1)
Zurich:	
SKA General	318.50(+0.60)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $330.70pm-$330.75
close $330.25-$274.00 $330.75-274.50
New York:
Comex (latest) $329.70-330.80

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Epsley Trust	13 +3
Hallwood Gp	103 +11
Aero & General	355 +35
N Brit Steel	10 +1
G.G. Kynoch	115 +10
KCA Drllg (1p)	23 +2
Gestetner "A"	72 +6
Early's Whitney	58 +5
Glynwed	13 +155
Gen Orientale	430 +30
Cluff "A"	75 +5
FALLS:	
Cape Industries	37 -10
Acorn Comp	61 -14
Bio-Osolates	38 -7
Moray Firth Explm	7 -1
Barget	13 -2
Auto Sec N/P	15 -2
Tranwood N/P	2 -¼
Ass Brit Eng	9 -1
Bracken	190 -20
Micrvtc	135 -8
Wm Boulton	5 -½
Pinappl Dec	61 -5
Coronation Syn	48 -5
Vlaks	180 -18

CURRENCIES

London: Close
£: $1.2065 (+0.0010)
£: DM 3.7092 (-0.02)
£: SwFr 3.0575 (-0.0610)
£: FFr 11.3537 (-0.0513)
£: Yen 297.31 (-0.87)
£ Index: 74.7 (unchanged).0

New York (close)
£: $1.2090
$: DM 3.0535 (+0.0)
$ Index: 142.5 (+0.1)

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9¾-9½%
3-month interbank 9¾-9 11/16
3-month eligible bills 9⅝-9 19/32%
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 11.25-11.50%
Federal Funds 0.8-⅞%
3-month Treasury Bills 9⅛-9 3/32%
(0.00%)
Long bond 101 7/16-11/16

WALL STREET

Early fall for Dow

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Wall Street stocks widened their losses, but a sharp drop in Union Carbide caused most of the damage to the Dow Jones industrial average. The index was down about 7½ points to below 1,164 in early trading.

Union Carbide was down 5⅜ at 39 after a delayed opening on 1,125 500 shares at that price. The drop lowered the Dow by 4.75.

Declines were even to four ahead of advances and trading was moderate.

Mr Alfred W Harris Jr., of Josephthal and company, said stocks were languishing after Wednesday's sharp declines. He said, "there is no major volume – rather we see a continuing apathy at the institutions as the market drifts. But there should be some rebound here after two weeks of declines."

Mr Harris said the market was negative, despite lower interest rates and lower inflation.

There had been enough positive news for the market "but the pervasive uncertainties are holding it down" Mr Harris said.

International Business Machines fell ¼ to 117⅝. General Motors fell ¼ to 73⅝. General Electric fell ⅜ to 54 ¼. Teledyne rose 1⅜ to 254 ¼. Honeywell was unchanged at 57. Eastman Kodak fell ¼ to 69 ½ and Digital Equipment fell ⅞ to 100 ½.

Northwest Industries was 56⅛, down 1, Fischbach was down 1⅜; International Paper at 49⅛ was down ⅜.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

COMMODITIES

COCOA	
Dec	1876–75
Mar	1883–38
May	1838–36
July	1838–36
Sep	1841–48
Dec	1798–95
Mar	1800–90
Vol	135/3329

STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	1112–1114
Three months	1120–1122
T/O	Nil–
Tone: Easier	–
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	9855–9860
Three months	9825–9830
T/O	160–
Tone: Steady to Quiet	–
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	9894–9895

NICKEL	
Cash	4065–4073
Three months	4065–4070
T/O	1332–
Tone: Steady	–

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.

Jan 334.20–334.40

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET

Month	Wheat Close	Barley Close
Jan	£110.23	£110.25
Mar	£113.65	£113.30
May	£117.00	£116.10
Jly	£119.20	-
Sep	£98.60	£97.90
Nov	£102.15	£100.95

Total lots traded

Wheat 128

Barley 81

APPOINTMENTS

Barclays: Mr James Prior, MP, the former cabinet minister, now chairman of GEC, is to become a director of Barclays Bank. He will be appointed to the boards of Barclays plc, Barclays Bank plc and Barclays International Ltd from January 1.

Readson Group: Mr Derek Hall becomes chief executive on February 1.

County Bank: Mr Robert W Dutton joins as a senior assistant director in the corporate advisory division.

Data-Ship UK: Mr Rose A Ross Belch and Mr Otto R Norland are now on the board.

Fluidrive Engineering: Mr Phillip Droog has been made managing director.

Grieveson Grant Pacific: Mr Hiroaki Yamataka is now a director.

Mr & Mrs Reinsurance: Mr J Locke, becomes director on January 1.

Swiss RE (UK): Mr G V Bayley and Mr J C G Stancliffe have joined the board.

Libra Bank: Sir Peter Macadam has been elected chairman.

Hertz: Mr Tim Harford has been appointed UK operations director.

Fairey Holdings: Mr Graham S Clarke has been promoted to managing director of the energy and military engineering division.

Burson-Marsteller (London): Mr Peter Rae and Mr Julian Stainton have been elected to the board.

Hornes: Mr Peter Davis has become a non-executive director.

GEC: Mr Arthur Walsh, is now a director.

DRG Public: Mr J Moger Woolley becomes chief executive of all DRG's British operations, on January 1.

American Express: Mr Harry L Freeman has been elected vice-president.

Carl Byoir: Mr Gerald Rix has joined the board.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Business was at a minimum all round the various markets. Optimism about the chances of a 9 per cent base rate before the new year has waned in the face of a shaky pound, and the market has nothing to go for in the run-up to Christmas.

Period rates showed only trifling adjustments to overnight levels.

Trade, was confined to the short end of the market where a few buyers of paper were noted at 9⅝ per cent and 9¹⁹⁄₃₂ per cent.

Overnight money was anchored at 9½ to 9¼ per cent for most of the session.

The close was rather tight after the Bank of England under-provided in its money market operations to the tune of about £125 million.

The rate hit 11 per cent at the finish. Local authorities showed no interest.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 9¾-9½
Finance House 10½

Discount Market Loans
Overnight: High 9¾ Low 9¼
Week fixed: 9½-9⅝

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	9¼	2 months	9⁷⁄₃₂
3 months	9⅛	3 months	9³⁄₃₂

Dollar CDs (%)

1 month	8.90-8.80	3 months	9.05-8.95
6 months	9.45-9.35	12 months	10.15-9.95

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Local Authority Deposits (%)

2 days	9¼	7 days	9¼
1 month	9⅝	3 months	9⅝
6 months	9⅝	12 months	9¹³⁄₁₆

Local Authority Bonds (%)

1 month	10¼-10	2 months	10⅜-10⅛
3 months	10⅜-10⅛	6 months	10⅛-9⅞
9 months	10⅜-10⅛	12 months	10¼-10

GOLD

Krugerrand* (per coin):
$340-341.5 (£282-283.50)
Sovereigns* (new):
$77.50-78.50 (£64.25-65.25)
*Excludes VAT

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 3 November, 1984 to 4 December, 1984, inclusive 9.904 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar was subject to wide fluctuations in thin and erratic trading. With Christmas approaching, and the corresponding reluctance to adopt new positions, rumours of selling orders or central bank intervention were blamed for the dollar movements.

After opening above the DM3.1000 level in London, the dollar fell back to about DM3.0700, when, according to some dealers, there was central bank intervention.

The US currency closed lower against the Deutschemark at DM3.0620 (DM 3.0715).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 6	Market rates close December 6	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1985-1.2100	$1.2060-1.2070	0.08-0.05c prem	0.13-0.08c prem
Montreal	$1.5892-1.5953	$1.5938-1.5953	0.12-0.20c disc	0.38-0.50c disc
Amsterdam	4.1715-4.1940fl	4.1715-4.1810fl	1½-1¼c prem	4⅛-3¾c prem
Brussels	74.44-74.90f	74.44-74.54f	4-9c disc	13-22c disc
Copenhagen	13.2920-13.3745k	13.3510-13.3745k	2⅞-3½ore disc	6¾-7¾ore disc
Dublin	1.1876-1.1961p	1.1883-1.1893p	45-62p disc	144-168p disc
Frankfurt	3.6960-3.7225m	3.6960-3.7055m	1⅜-1¼pf prem	3⅞-3⅝pf prem
Lisbon	198.55-200.33e	198.77-200.14e	185-625e disc	585-1735e disc
Oslo	0.7165-10.7990k	10.7835-190.7990k	2⅞-3⅝ore disc	8⅝-9⅝ore disc
Paris	11.3105-11.3970f	11.3105-11.3325f	7⅞-1⅝c disc	3¼-4⅞c disc
Stockholm	10.5495-10.6175k	10.5965-10.6175k	1½-2ore disc	5¼-5⅞ore disc
Tokyo	296.91-297.71y	297.22-297.71y	⅞-⅞y prem	2½-2¼y prem
Vienna	25.86-26.13sch	26.06-26.11sch	4⅞-2¾gro prem	13⅞-10¼gro prem
Zurich	3.0430-3.0720f	3.0430-3.0520f	1⅜-1⅛c prem	3⅝-3¼c prem

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down unchanged at 74.7 (day's range 74.6-74.8).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso*	183.09-183.40
Australia dollar	1.4342-1.4372
Bahrain dinar	.4510-.4550
Brazil cruzeiro*	3501-3528
Cyprus pound	0.74/75-0.75-75
Finland marka	7.67-7.71
Greece Drachma	151.35-153.35
Hongkong dollar	9.425-9.436
India rupee	14.80-14.80
Iraq dinar	n.a.
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.3825-0.3865
Malaysia dollar	2.9034-2.9083
Mexico peso	225-250
New Zealand dollar	2.4733-2.4805
Saudi Arabia riyal	4.2820-4.3020
Singapore dollar	2.60-2.62
South Africa rand	2.21-2.22
United Arab Emirates dirham	4.3965-4.4365

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.0100-1.0115
Singapore	2.1655-2.1670
Malaysia	2.4105-2.4125
Australia	0.8402-0.8412
Canada	1.3219-1.3224
Sweden	8.7500-8.7700
Norway	8.8900-8.9000
Denmark	11.01-11.06
West Germany	3.0650-3.0700
Switzerland	2.5275-2.5325
Netherlands	3.4550-3.4600
France	9.4000-9.5000
Japan	246.50-246.75
Italy	1891.0-1895
Belgium(Comm)	74.50-74.72
Hong Kong	9.448-9.4629
Portugal	165-166
Spain	170.30-170.60
Austria	21.52-31.55

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
160	119	Aberdeen	158	● +1	7.5	4.8	..
86	56	Alisa	85	–1	1.9	2.2	..
573	436	Alliance	565	–3	20.7	3.7	..
115	89½	Amer	109	–1	3.6	3.3	..
285	218	Ang Amer Sec	260	–4	7.6	2.9	..
159	115	Ang Scot	157	..	4.0	2.5	..
382	310	Ashdown	378	..	10.3	2.7	..
141	96	Atlanta	133	.	1.6	1.2	..
101	75	Atlantic Assets	85	–1	0.7	0.8	..
89	67	Bankers	79	–1	3.0b	3.8	..
174	130	Berry	167	● ..	1.4	0.9	..
150	117	Border & Stns	147	● –1	4.7	3.2	..
101	79	Br Amer Gen	99	..	3.7	3.7	..
189	140½	Br Assets	177	● –2	9.7b	5.5	..
540	435	General Funds	535	..	12.9	2.4	..
235	184	General Cons	230	..	12.0	5.2	..
104	77	Glasgow Stock	102	..	2.6	2.6	..
247	197	Globe	242	–2	12.9	5.3	..
215	176	Greenfriar	202	..	1.9	1.0	..
250	167½	Gresham House	225	+10	5.7	2.5	..
141	114	Hambros	138	● ..	5.4	3.9	..
228	187	Hill (P)	218	● –2	13.2	6.1	..
486	390	Invest-in Success	485	..	7.6	1.6	..
211	162	Inv Cap	207	–1	5.1	2.5	..
64½	43	Japan Assets	61½	● –1	0.1	0.1	..
117	90	Stockholders	109	● –1	4.4	3.1	..
111	75	Tr Australia	92	● –2	2.9	3.1	..
500	345	Akroyd & Smithers	385	● –10	25.5	6.5	13.8
32⅝	18⅝	American Express	£28¹⁵⁄₁₆	–⅛			
28	18	Argyle	22	.	0.7	3.2	27.2
105	67	Boustead	79	–1			
98	63	Britannia Arrow	69	–2	3.3	4.8	14.2
105	77	CJR Pacific	98	+1	..	..	..
850	635	Daily Mail	785	..	49.3	6.2	11.6
860	630	Do 'A'	785	..	49.3	6.2	11.5
		Exco	535	–10	11.8	2.2	20.2
		Exploration	60	..	4.5	7.5	9.6
	9	First Charlotte	15½	..	0.1	0.7	95.5
	78	Frost (JJ & D)	78	● ..	4.0	5.1	11.5
	42	Goode (D & M)	45	..	1.8	4.0	7.4
	357	Henderson Admin	500	..	15.7	3.1	10.6
	580	M & G	675	–3	31.4	4.7	16.5
	215	Martin (RP)	380	● ..	17.9	4.7	8.6
	247	Mercantile House	279	–6	17.1	6.1	7.1
	255	Mills & Allen	320	..	20.0	6.3	9.9
	70	Smith Brothers	103	–3	7.1	6.9	4.4
	175	Yule Catto	200	..	7.9	3.9	9.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
	69	Tr City Of Lon Dfd	74	–1	4.4b	6.0	..
	121	Tr Ind & Gen	138	–1	4.6b	3.4	..
	201	Tr Natural Res	237	● ..	10.7	4.6	..
	130	Tr North America	159	● –2	4.9b	3.1	..
	182	Tr Pacific Basin	265	–7	2.8b	1.1	..
	107	Tr Property	135	..	4.7	3.5	..
	66	Tr Tech	85	● ..	2.4	2.8	..
	98	Tr Trustees	120	–1	4.9	4.1	..
	85	Temple Bar	104	..	6.2b	6.0	..
	160	Throgmorton	199	–1	9.3	4.7	..
	211	Throg Secured Cap	250	..			..
	128	Trans Oceanic	145	..	4.3	3.0	..
	89	Tribune	102	..	2.8	2.7	..
	67½	Triplevest Inc	78½	..	12.4	16.3	..
	153	US Debenture	185	..	9.3	5.1	..
	75	Viking Resource	79	● ..	1.6	2.0	..
	53	Westpool	67	..	2.0	2.9	..
	60	Winterbottm Enrgy	95	..	1.0	1.1	..
	109½	Witan	136	.	3.8	2.8	..
	207	Yeoman	254	.	11.7	4.6	..

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

COMPANY NEWS

● PEGLER-HATTERSLEY: Results for half year to September 29, dividend 5.25p (5p) (figures in £00): Turnover 75,000 (73,830), trading profit, 4,700 (4,517), pretax profit 8,377 (7,870) after exceptional debits 154 (debit 306) but including related companies 2,921 (2,839) and interest 910 (820). Tax 4,004 (3,719) EPS 14.3p (13.6p).

● BRISTOL OIL AND MINERALS: The company has acquired a 51% interest in Mainline Resources, which has a contract with Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil company to enhance recovery of oil from the Bunyu Island field, off East Kalimantan. Peak production from the field has been up to 10,500 barrels per day and is currently at about 3,800bpd.

● BOOKER MCCONNELL: Booker Agriculture International has acquired 80% of W. and F fish products for about £3.1million in cash. In a separate transaction BAI purchased Wonderfood Investments, whose sole asset is the freehold premises occupied by W and F. The consideration was £400,000 in cash.

● HARRIS QUEENSWAY: The company plans to sell Bakers Household Stores (Leeds) and the Queensway home textiles division to Poundstretcher, which is 75% owned by Harris Queensway with the remaining 25% owned by Mr S Frearnley and Mr P P Appell. The proposal is to sell all of the issued share capital of Bakers for a consideration of £6,291,049.

● C. H. INDUSTRIALS: results for six months to September 29: dividend 0.45p (0.4p) on increased capitalization. (Figures in £000): turnover 10,042 (8,810), operating profit 490 (324), pretax profit 503 (317), including associates share 13 (7 debut), tax 35 (29), minorities nil (18 credit), EPS 2.79p (2.15p).

● G R (HOLDINGS): The chairman, Mr A. D. Stalbow, reports: "The year has seen its share of problems, not least of which was the integration of Morlands into the Glastonbury complex, a process which is not yet complete".

● GROSVENOR PRESS: Mr Martin Kinney, the company chairman, reports: "In view of the current level of orders being received, I am cautiously optimistic on the prospects for the current year".

● CRAMPHORN: Mr Alan Bacon, the chairman, says: "It would be unwise to suggest that conditions for the current year will be as favourable as they were last, but with the steps which have been taken and the present sound base of the company, I am hopeful that it should show a modest improvement in results".

● ROUTLEDGE AND KEGAN PAUL: Results for the six months to September 30, (figures in £000) show a turnover of 2,933 (2,561) operating profit of 151 (26) and interest at 47 (75). Pretax profit totalled 105 (loss 49). Earnings per share rose to 9.1p (loss 4.4p). But no interim dividend (nil) is being paid out. Shares rose to 251p up 6p.

● EDBRO (HOLDINGS): An interim dividend of 2p (same) is being paid. Results for the six months to September 30 (figures in million pounds) indicate sales of 9.2 (9.9), trading profit of 1.1 (1.2), and pretax profit of 1 (1.1) after interest charge of 0.1 (0.1). Earnings per share were 11p (12p). Shares slipped to 117p down 5p.

● FINE ART DEVELOPMENTS: Results for the six months to September 30. (figures in £000) indicate a turnover of 52,880 (38,505), operating profit of 2,376 (1,249) and pretax profit of 462 (155). Earnings per share were 0.535p (0.198p). Shares were unchanged at 78p. An interim dividend of 1.1p (same) is being paid.

● THE SCOTTISH AND MERCANTILE INVESTMENT: The chairman, Mr Dennis Poore, says in his statement: "The outlook remains promising. Political developments in both Britain and the USA appear favourable to economic progress and with it to your (shareholders') company's investments."

Central and Sheerwood results for the six months to June 30 (figures in £s) show a turnover of 37,588 (40,020) and group trading profits of 556 (916). The chairman, Lord Eden, says the overall group position is likely to be held steady in the second half and it is still the firm expectation that the group will return to profitability in 1985. No interim dividend has been declared. Shares slipped to 7½p, down ½p.

● GIBBS MEW: Results for the six months to September 30 last (figures in £000) show group turnover of 8337.1 (8660.2), operating profit of 394.4 (484.5), and extraordinary income of 100.2 (nil). Group profit before tax totalled 494.6 (484.5) with tax at 160.0 (145.0). Earnings per share slipped to 4.2p (6.1p). Shares were unchanged at 140p. An interim dividend of 1.1p (same) has been declared.

● KEYSTONE INVESTMENTS: A final dividend of 6p (same), making 10p (9.64p adjusted) is being paid. Results for the year to October 31 last (figures in £000) indicate a total income of 1,505 (1,8) and pretax revenue of 1,278 (1,045) with tax at 444 (361). Net asset value per share is 428p (347p adjusted).

● FAIRLINE BOATS: A final dividend of 1.5p (1p) making 2.625p (1.75p) is being paid. Results for the 12 months to September 30 (figures in £000) indicate a turnover of 6,398 (5,201), pretax profit of 402 (246) and tax at 150 (91.5) Earnings per share rose to 7.2p (4.4p). The company chairman states that the current year has started well with strong demand for all Fairline models. Exports are currently running at over 70 per cent of production.

● GRESHAM HOUSE: Results for the six months to June 30 (figures in £000) show dividend and interest income of 148 (162), rental income of 472 (467) and income from subsidiaries at 181 (96). Total income was 801 (725) with pretax profit at 185 (63) after administrative expenses and interest of 616 (662). Earnings per share were 3.6p (3.0p) and shares were unchanged at 215p. An interim dividend of 1.4p (same) is being paid.

● WAGON INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS: The company is paying an interim dividend of 3p (2) for the half-year to September 30. The increased dividend is in line with the improved trading performance in the first half, and also reflects the desire to reduce the past disparity between the interim and final dividends. Results (figures in £000) show a turnover of 34,036 (30,309), trading profit of 2,532 (1,817), and pretax profit of 2,460 (1,653) with tax at 1,288 (854). Earnings per share rose to 5.83p (3.97p).

● HOLDEN HYDROMAN: An interim dividend of 0.975p is being paid for the half-year to September 30. Results, with figures in £000, show a turnover of 1,973 (1,522), pretax profit of 157 (192) and tax at 55 (nil). Earnings per share were 2.71p (5.44p on old capital). Shares were unchanged at 105p.

● J A DEVENISH: Final 9.25p making 11.5p (10.25p) for year to September 28 (figures in £000): Turnover 23,352 (22,159). Pretax profit 2,057 (1,924), tax 671 (726), extraordinary loss 457 (72 profit), attributable profit 929 (1270), EPS 37.3p (32.2p). Wines, soft drinks and ciders. All increased, although beer volumes were down by 2.2 per cent which is close to the national trend.

● LAWTEX: Mr Peter Schaefer, chairman, told shareholders the umbrella division's profitability received a setbak from the recent drought, which tended to mask progress. However, Xetal, the small division specializing in the supply of computer systems to the clothing industry, has developed and launched a number of new products.

● NORTHERN FOODS: The company has agreed to sell the assets and business of Patrick Cudahy (Winsconsin) to Smithfield Foods of Virginia. Patrick Cudahy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Prestige Foods (formerly Bluebird). The price is about $29 million (£24) and is subject to the approval of certain government agencies.

● TIGER OATS. The board is budgeting for an increase in earnings per share in the present financial year. It is intended to make at least one significant acquisition.

RECENT ISSUES

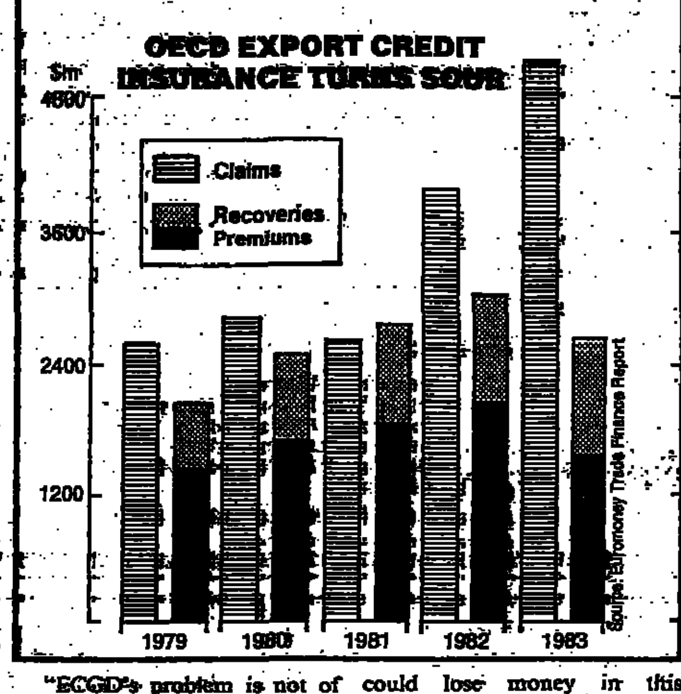
	Closing Price
Access Satelite Int 5p Ord (150a)	184-8
Addison Comm 2p Ord (116a)	188
Alda Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	166-3
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	88
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	112+1
Brit Bloodstock Ag 25p Ord (165a)	235
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	138
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	185
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	166-1
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	95
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	248-2
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	186-2
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	115+1
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	178+1
Oldacre Hldgs 20p Ord	108
PSM Int 25p (140)	156
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	75
Second Market Inv 5p Ord (10)	11½
Sharee Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	190
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	140-3
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	119
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	125
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	169
Wates City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	114

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities, * by tender.

INDUSTRY TODAY

Undeclared war being waged for the ECGD

Britain's troubled export agency is labouring under the burden to two masters



Mr Paul Channon, the Minister of State for Trade, will give evidence on Wednesday to the House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee investigating the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), an organization best known for suddenly 0pplunging £400 million into debt (to the Treasury) after 65 mostly profitable years of insuring British exports.

He has arguably made the committee's questions redundant by announcing last month that he was rejecting (much to the disappointment of the CBI) the advice of the Matthews Committee to turn ECGD into a public corporation.

But interest in ECGD has remained high. The questions many industrialists would like to ask Mr Channon are: "Are you having a battle with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, over ECGD funding?" And: "Are you going to win?"

Sir Raymond Lygo, managing director of British Aerospace, virtually asked them this week. He told MPs that, in partnership with the French, Germans and Italians, he has orders worth £400 million waiting to be signed by Turkey for 40 Tornado fighter aircraft and seven Airbuses, with an option on seven more – worth another £140 million.

He is likely to lose the order, he explained, because ECGD is not being allowed to provide the usual 85 per cent cover, unlike other European countries' credit agencies.

The Government's advice is that 50 per cent ECGD insurance will be there – but only if the private sector finds the other half. Banks and insurers, Sir Raymond said, run away from military aircraft deals (such planes are not recoverable assets if the customer government is overthrown) and do not like the exceptionally long-term financing required for civil sales.

"Unless British Aerospace was prepared to take the recourse onto its own balance sheet, which it is not prepared to do, the order will be lost," Sir Raymond said.

He agreed that it is "absolutely right" that, having lost round one in the battle to sell to Turkey, Boeing would then win round two.

Sir Raymond is president of the Society of British Aerospace Companies which has 300 members. His industry generates 2 per cent of GDP, 8 per cent of manufactured exports and an annual trade surplus on its own goods of about £1.3 billion a year.

He feels that he ought to be heard and wrote to Mr Lawson to say so. He was told to take his case up with Mr Channon.

In that answer lies the problem created by ECGD's mandate to promote imports at no net cost to the taxpayers. It has been given two masters with apparently differing ideas.

"ECGD's problem is not of its own making," Sir Raymond said. "They have to get ministerial or Cabinet approval. I Believe that a major concern exists within the Treasury. I believe that the DTI is prepared to take what I regard as a more realistic view of Turkish creditworthiness, in line with our view. Like any other citizen, we have right of access to the Chancellor – if he will see us."

There is an undeclared tussle going on between the DTI (which theoretically controls ECGD) and the Treasury (which funds it and which, at present, appears to have the whip hand).

Big project contractors felt its impact last week. They were told that, it they want insurance against exchange rate losses incurred in the lenthy period between bidding for and winning a foreign currency contract, it will cost them up to almost four times as much.

The fact that ECGD has 80 bids, potentially worth £3 billion, currently insured is a measure of British contractors' desperation to go for any business, rather than a buoyant market. The higher premiums, which will cost them millions each time they bid for something like a power station, will they have told Government, make them uncompetitive.

ECGD has every one of its loss-making facilities under review. Currently being closely scrutinised is the External Trade Scheme – which largely guarantees deals done by the merchanting community for goods which go from one country to another without touching British shores.

Industry argues that the Treasury insistence on looking at ECGD's balance on a year-by-year accounting basis, when it has to insure deals of up to eight years, is a regime no private insurer would have to suffer.

Another former ECGD specialist, Mr Donald Ward, general secretary of the Berne Union, the club of 42 state and private credit insurance, last month told *Euromoney Trade Finance Report*: "In the good old days, nobody realised we could lose money in this business."

How does ECGD rate in the bad new days? The magazine showed that, of the 19 major CECD countries, only three had export credit agencies in profit last year: Portugal ($2m), Australia ($4.4) and New Zealand (just $400,000).

It could be argued that ECGD simply looks so much worse off because it is so much bigger. Portugal's Cosec agency insured $694m worth of exports last year (15 per cent of its country's total). Austria's OKB, which was theoretically most exposed (with 35 per cent of total foreign sales), was out-insured by ECGD by more than five times.

ECGD share of national exports dropped from 33.9 per cent in 1982, but Japan's EID/Miti's share fell from 38.4 to 30.3 per cent.

France, the only major exporter to head those two in terms of percentage of exports covered, increase by 1 per cent to 34 – with its agency, Coface, making a $442.3m loss on $35.31 billion insured.

Remarkably, FCIA/Eximbank insured only 3.75 per cent of US exports, and still registered a $102.8 million deficit on business worth $7.52 billion.

There is certainly a tendency for the British to look at ECGD in isolation, which is unfair. Criticism of past imperfect management, though, are not unfair.

What will be most interesting is whether it will now be regarded in a non-civil service fashion. Current thinking in the DTI suggests that it needs more resources.

If that is backed up by the "short, sharp review" by consultants Coopers and Lybrand, due to take about another three months, the Cabinet will have to decide not on whether it should make money more readily available for exporters but whether it should, exceptionally, be making more money available for ECGD itself.

John Lawless

TEMPUS

Bass pulls away in brewery stakes

Bass's full-year figures probably mark a milestone in British brewing. What has been surmise for some years is fast becoming fact – the group has stolen an unassailable lead in the sector.

Profits ahead by 25 per cent on a sales gain of just 13 per cent look attractive, but the underlying trading position is even more compulsive.

Sales of lager, the high margin money-spinner, now account for about 46 per cent of Bass's brewing business, an improvement on 1982-83.

This gives the company just over a quarter of the United Kingdom lager market, up by one percentage point. Ale sales for 1983-84 were maintained, which implies an improvement in market share of about ½ point.

Putting the figures another way, Bass's sales gain includes price rises of about 7 per cent, which in turn assumes a volume improvement of about 5 per cent.

The sector average volume gain was ½ per cent. Allied-Lyons was about in line with this, while Whitbread definitely dipped below it.

The group's flow of funds statement is equally revealing. Funds generated totalled £300 million but working capital needs fell some £5 million, after a squeeze on stocks. Thus, even after £180 million of capital expenditure, net liquidity improved by nearly £60 million. Interest charges fell £5 million.

Again, this position is in marked contrast to Bass's main competitors, where gearing has been rising. This in turn constrains freedom to manoeuvre. Significantly, Bass has not closed a brewery for five years.

The gap between Bass and the rest may widen again this year. It plans to tunnel away at the competition via £263 million of capital spending on pub refurbishment, rather than price cutting, and returns here must come through fairly quickly.

Equally, brewing analysts must, for the time being, find it well nigh impossible to recommend any other stock but Bass as the core holding in the sector, a useful increment to the credit rating, as the group prepares to spend £200 million on hotel acquisitions.

London's shift to a two-tier market will only exaggerate the disparity between Bass and the rest. The shares closed 3p ahead at 431p.

Hanson Trust

The relentless rise of Hanson Trust continues. Even by its own high standards, Lord Hanson's bricks and batteries to stores and engineering combine surpassed itself in the year to the end of September.

Pretax profits rose from £91.1 million to £169.1 million. The group's last two big acquisitions, London Brick and US Industries, helped but even after stripping out a first-time contribution net of financing costs of about £20 million, the underlying rate of growth is still 64 per cent.

It would be silly for Hanson to be modest about such a performance. Even so the statement accompanying the figures was perhaps a little over-the-top.

It said: "The company is dedicated to entrepreneurial growth and the board is confident that its unremitting attention to the philosophy which has been so successful for 21 years will continue to bring rewards for shareholders in 1985 and the year ahead."

Self eulogies apart, it is difficult to find fault with much Hanson is doing at the moment. If proof were needed of the Hanson magic, just look at the figures for British Ever Ready, which was perhaps the outstanding group performer last year.

BOC

BOC has limbo-danced its way out of the troubled welding business by taking losses of £36 million below the line (as well as £6 million losses pretax), and these in turn are more than covered by £50 million plus of extraordinary profits. Gearing is about 44 per cent, and swollen by currency translation effects.

Nevertheless, the quality of BOC earnings in 1984-85 looks slightly suspect. Gases, still two-thirds of group profits, enjoyed a marvellous year on the back of the US economic recovery.

The health care side looks solid enough, but the best boost for the group would undoubtedly come from a dollar devaluation. At 252p, the shares must benefit from an easier money policy from the Federal Reserve.

Ferranti

Ferranti's relentless surge onward and upward continued yesterday with the announcement of another 25 per cent increase in interim profits to £18.5m. Over the last five years it has averaged a growth rate of 30 per cent, putting its larger companions in the electronics sector in the shade.

While some of the big players have seen growth slowing and order books shrinking, Ferranti is able to report the opposite. The order book is 25 per cent up on last year and now stands at a record level. more significantly, the orders are coming in across the range of its activities.

Ferranti still refuses to provide a breakdown of divisional performance at the interim stage, but it has clearly been a period of improvement on all fronts. Production problems in the electronics division appear, however, to have been overcome and its result was a big factor in the first half growth.

Talk of a takeover for the company, should there be a restructuring within the electronics sector, now seems misplaced. The strength of the shares shed just 2p on the announcement of the results down to 178p. They do look expensive, but it is hard to find a company in the sector which can better Ferranti's prospects. Any rewards will be in the long, not short, term.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Index slips on growing fears of bank cash call

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Fears that a leading bank is about to launch a rights issue helped to unsettle the stock market yesterday. Shares of the big four clearers fell, with **Barclays**, the favourite to seek more cash, lowered by 8p to 519p.

Ever since the Bank of England toughened the rules on what constitutes bank equity and loans, there has been a growing feeling that a cash call is imminent. With the long-running British Telecom flotation completed, the way is clear for one of the banks to replenish its coffers.

The Budget also took its toll of bank balance sheets, and in July National Westminster beat its rivals to the punch when it announced a £236 million rights issue.

Midland last raised cash from shareholders in August last year when it pulled in £155 million.

Penny & Giles International, the high technology engineering group, starts life on the USM next week after a placing of 23.5 per cent of its shares at 130p each by Quilter Goodison, the stockbroker. Most of the 2,115,384 shares sold come from existing shareholders. About 576,923 new shares are being sold to raise £530,000. At the placing price Penny & Giles, which is known for its development of the "black box" flight recorder, is valued at £11.7 million, on a price/earnings ratio of about 22 at the standard tax rate.

Royal Bank of Scotland raised £41.5 million in April.

Lloyds, which has the healthiest of the bank balance sheets but may still feel obliged to sek more cash, fell 12p to 497p. **Nat West** dropped 12p to 564p and **Midland** 8p to 359p.

Lloyds also came in for extra market attention as City men tried to work out the timing of the bank's reduction of its stake in the Royal Bank of Scotland. Just a year ago Lloyds increased its holding from 16 per cent to 21 per cent, and subsequently became embroiled with the Department of Trade, which took a dislike to Lloyds's actions. As a result, the big bank promised in June to cut its stake to 16 per cent "within a reasonable period".

Analysts believe the end of that "period" must be close, and the thought knocked Royal Bank shares 8p lower to 226p. It is thought that Lloyds would like to find one buyer for the 5 per cent chunk, but if that cannot be done the market must eventually see a steady stream of shares coming through.

A Lloyds spokesman said: "We never comment on market rumour."

Equities suffered another dull day with the FT 30-share index declining 6.5 points to 908.4 points. It had been down 8.2 points earlier.

The more broadly based FT-SE share index was 7.1 points down at the close. Sine the euphoria which accompanied Monday's Telecom launch, shares have looked decidely jaded. The FT 30-share index has now fallen for the three full days of BT's stock market life.

Telecom shares again enjoyed an active session, but closed 1p lower at 88p. In the opening burst they touched 97p.

BT, although successfully launched, continues to dominate market sentiment. The institutional buying which was forecast to follow the sale has so far been absent.

There was in fact considerable selling in early trading yesterday. But a fine array of company results – such as Bass and Hanson Trust – eased the pressure which had in part been due to worries about the American economy and the recent poor Wall Street showing.

Government stocks displayed little life, hovering around their overnight levels.

Glynwed, in a depressed engineering section, rose 13p to 155p following the sale of its South African offshoot. **LRC International** responded to a brokers' talk-in with a 6p gain to 115p.

Bass, after dipping to 412p on its year's figures, gathered strength as the day progressed, closing at 436p, an 8p rise on the day.

Prices on the USM pitches were looking blood-stained by the end of the day, with computer and high technology stocks particularly battered.

The Spillage followed the announcement from **Acorn Computers** that it is withdrawing from US market because of poor sales since the venture began in autumn 1983.

Acorn had hoped to take as much as 10 per cent of the American home computers market with its BBC micro, but met many difficulties, including fierce competition from Apple, the US computer maker which was already well-established in the educational sector.

Yesterday Acorn's share price tumbled 14p to 61p – a long way off the 120p striking price when the company came to the stock market 14 months ago.

Other share prices suffered in sympathy, with **Microvitec**, which began a bulk sales push in the United States this summer, falling 8p to 135p. The company produces computer peripherals, such as display screens and power units.

Applied Computer Techniques, a fully-listed share, was knocked back 17p to 255p. ACT also recently initiated a big marketing effort in the US for its Apricot personal computers.

Wordplex, a computer software producer which joined the full market earlier this year, has alreay announced a restructuring of its operations in the US, and showed the effects of market concern with a 10p loss to 170p. That makes a 20p fall in two daysnd does not compare well with the 285p striking price set in May.

Morgan Communications, the give-away newspaper group, is venturing into the highly competitive world of exhibitions. Its first venture is the South Eastern Motor Show at Goodwood, Sussex, next July. Meanwhile, the company seems set for full-years profits nudging £800,000, against £509,000. The shares eased 1p to 106p yesterday.

At **Aeronautical & General Instruments** there was mixed news. Alongside the interim results, the company revealed a bid approach. Nothing more is being said at the moment, but the shares were soon talking. They rose 50p to 373p at one stage, but later settled for a 35p rise to 358p. The trimming came when market men looked at the half year profits at AGI. These were heavily down, at £46,000 against £346,000 in first half 1983. Again, there is no interim dividend.

Johnson Matthey closed 3p down at 68p. The Charter Consolidated rescue package was approved yesterday. Charter's other worry, **Cape Industries**, tumbled a further 10p to 37p and **Charter** itself lost 10p to 170p.

Goring Kerr, the electronics group spun off from last year, continued to enjoy American support and gained 15p to 435p, a record.

The revitalized Arthur Guinness and Sons could produce profits of up to £70 million, against £58.8 million, in the year to last September, say Mr Neil Scourse and Mr Tom Corran at Fielding, Newson-Smith, the stockbroker. Guinness shares fell 3p to 176p yesterday.

Northern Foods, following its US sale and ahead of next week's interim results, advanced 8p to 210p. The market is not expecting much excitement. About £23.5 million seems the average expectation against last year's £26.4 million half-time figure.

Exco International, the burgeoning financial supermarket, fell 10p to 533p despite news that the group has secured another piece in its global jigsaw. It is paying $10 million (£8.3 million) for a 40 per cent stake and a chunk of loan capital in Blackman Garlock Flynn & Co., a California merchant bank specializing in real estate.

Body Shop did its bit to push down the USM index. The shares lost 20p yesterday, to 400p, still on the back of adverse comment.

Other main losers on the secondary market included **Cornell**, down 10p at 208p, **Miss World**, 10p lower at 195p, and **Spring Ram**, which fell 7p to 166p. By the close, the Datastream USM index showed a 1.97 point loss to 104.18.

An 86 per cent profits surge and scrip issue left **Hanson Trust** 9p better at 276p, but **BOC Group's** figures pushed shares 3p down at 252p. **Great Universal Stores "A"** on better-than-expected results gained 5p to 629p.

Worries that the cement price increase may be postponed trimmed **Blue Circle Industries** 8p to 455p.

Oil shares rallied after it became known that the British National Oil Corporation would allow more North Sea oil to flow through to the spot market.

Gresham House, the investment group, rose 18p to 225p following trebled profits.

Abaco buys mortgage broker

By Cliff Feltham

Abaco Investments – the former Greencoat Properties – took another step towards creating a mini financial services group yesterday when it took full control of John Charcol, one of Britain's largest mortgage brokers, in a deal which will involve a total outlay of £2.8 million.

Mr Tim Razzall, the Abaco chairman who first took a 20 per cent stake in Charcol in the spring, says it is arranging £150 million of mortgages a year putting it in the same league as the top 20 building societies.

Charcol, set up 10 years ago by Mr John Garfield and Mr Charles Wishart who will stay on to run the business, is expected to make profits before tax of about £480,000 in the present year, against £150,000 before.

Charcol – which fixes mortgages of between £30,000 and £80,000 and earns income from insurance linked advances – has a mortgage advisory service and two estate agents, with plans to open others.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings†	11½%
Consolidated Crds	9¾%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co*	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¾%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7¼%; £50,000 and over, 8%.



YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Great incentives for small-minded grads

By Bill Johnstone

Forty new graduates with ambitions to run their own businesses are to be given training and up to £6.000 financial assistance under a scheme sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission, BP, National Westminster Bank, Arthur Anderson and Cranfield Institute of Technology.

The Graduate Enterprise Programme, which is claimed to be the first of its kind in England, will offer the successful applicants training at Cranfield and counselling.

David Trippier, Minister for Small Businesses who launched the scheme, says the government is keen on following the United States example, where the small business – principally in the high technology sector – has been the major source of new jobs.

Mr Trippier said: "In the late 1950's and the 1960's priority was given to the large company competing in world markets. The UK is a latecomer to the small business cause."

Candidates chosen for the scheme will also qualify for the MSC training allowance, normally about £40 a week.

Hugh Sharp, head of MSC Enterprise Training said: "In recent years the MSC has demonstrated how training in business planning skills significantly improves prospects for survival and growth in new ventures."

The success of the high technology start-ups on the periphery of Stanford University in Silicon Valley, California and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have influenced the government's thinking.

The chair in Small Business Development at Cranfield has been filled recently by Professor Paul Burns who will steer the programme, which will offer training and backing previously only available to graduates through a large company.

Prof Burns said: "It offers an imaginative mix of training, counselling and cash to give participants maximum support in launching their own businesses. This programme has the whole-hearted support of both the public and the private sectors working together to provide an outlet for the tremendous potential for innovation within the graduate population".



David Trippier: following the American lead.

● Contact: *Undergraduates will be invited, though colleges, to attend day-long seminars at 30 country-wide venues during the next few months. Counsellers at the seminars will assist in preparing applications. Forms must be in by March 1985. Successful applicants will be chosen by April and after a two-day introductory course in July they will begin their 16-week course in August, with five weeks residential at Cranfield.*

Not so fine on board

By Philip Robinson

The Institute of Directors is currently fielding more than 500 orders for its 180-page guide* to how a director may lose his shirt without even realizing it is on the line.

Last year *directors paid £1 million* from their personal assets to the Department of Health and Social Security because their companies had failed to pay their National Insurance contributions.

In many cases, the first directors knew of their liability was when the DHSS put in the claim. This specific liability is being repealed, but there are plenty more according to Andrew Hutchinson, the IoD's chief researcher who has combed five companies' acts to discover more than 200 potential offences and turned up 250 separate statutes which make directors personally liable for offences committed by their companies.

This first comprehensive guide of it kind covers directors' duties to the company, liabilities to other parties, liabilities under the companies acts and various liability for corporate criminal offences. Punishments vary: fines ranging from £50 to £2,000.

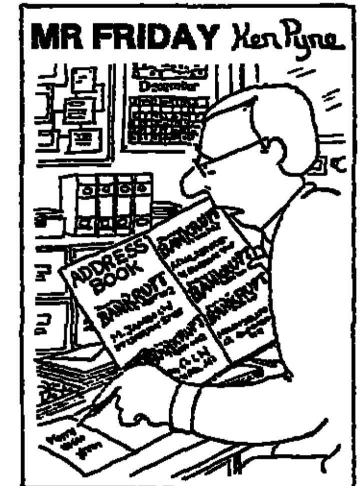
The guide points out for example, that the whole of directors' assets are at a risk if it is proved that a director failed to observe adequate boardroom proceedings or failed to give full and thorough consideration of a company's present and future liquidity.

The IoD intends a further practice note on how board meetings and documents may be structured to comply with existing and proposed legislation.

Having produced the booklet, the institute advises that careful consideration should be given before accepting apointment as director.

● *Directors' Personal Liabilities, IoD Policy Unit, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5E. Price £5.95 (£2.95 for members), both plus 50p and packaging.*

MR FRIDAY Ken Pyne



"This is what I've been dreading – seeing how short my Christmas card list has become"

Zoom, if not boom, says CBI

■ Small manufacturers expect output rises over the next four months at the fastest rate seen for the past half year, according to the latest survey of the Confederation of British Industry. *Both home and export order books* are reported to be improving. Stock levels are said to be at about the right level. More companies also now expect to increase prices but that is against the background of low levels compared with recent years. Despite the recovery pattern thrown up by the survey nearly a third of the 815 small *manufacturers taking part still assessed* their total and export order books as "below normal".

■ This year's Lloyds Bowmaker Industry Achievement Award for small businesses has gone to Denford Machine Tools at Brighouse, West Yorkshire. Denford has *developed a pioneering range of* computerised lathes and milling machines for light production and technical training. Presenting the award yesterday, David Trippier, Small Businesses Minister, said: "The company has seized the opportunity to make the most of the microchip in a traditional industry."

■ British Venture Capital Association *members, now numbering 50 in direct-fund* management, have £150 million ready to invest in suitable new ventures. So far this year association members have committed £159 million in the UK, with a further £58 million abroad, largely in the US, according to the association's chairman, Tony Lorenz, who is managing director of Equity Capital *for Industry. Of the total £217 million* investment this year 78 per cent went to new ventures, the rest being top-up financing on existing investments.

Total investments by association menbers now stand at more than £450mm. When the association was launched last year, it had a membership of 33 active fund management groups.

● Contact: *British Venture Capital Association, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS; phone (01) 836 5702.*

TENNIS: MARTINA NAVRATILOVA'S FIRST DEFEAT IN 75 MATCHES

'Miss Invincible' defeated by Miss Sukova's determination

Melbourne (Reuter) – The Prague teenager, Helena Sukova, who won her first major title less than three weeks ago, yesterday joined one of the smallest clubs in the world – players who have beaten Martina Navratilova.

Sukova, the ninth seed, shattered the world No 1's hopes of winning a record seventh successive grand slam title, the grand slam in one calendar year and her 100th tournament when she triumphed 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the Australian Open women's singles semi-final.

The defeat, only the sixth for Miss Navratilova in three years, ended a record 74-match winning streak. She was last beaten by another young Czechoslovak, Hana Mandlikova, in the final of a tournament in Oakland, California, in January.

Chris Lloyd, yesterday's other semi-final victor, had a convincing 6-3, 6-3 win over the Australian, Wendy Turnbull.

Miss Navratilova unleashed a string of forehand winners to stave off five match points yesterday. But her tall opponent, winner of the Brisbane Classic on November 25, steadfastly refused to be deprived of victory.

Miss Sukova, aged 19, who served consistently well throughout, broke Miss Navratilova's serve twice early in the third set for a 3-0 lead, but the defending champion battled back courageously to 5-5. Miss Sukova broke again for 6-5, then put together six match points in the twelfth game. Miss Navratilova fought off five but on the sixth her return slipped out over the sideline.

"I made a great comeback, but I didn't quite finish it off," Navratilova said afterwards. "I wasn't able to get a good rhythm on my volley, so that was probably the biggest problem. I've been under tremendous pressure for a long time. I was thinking even before the tournament that whether I won or lost I was going to have a hard time getting motivated, because if I had won I had done it all and there is no place left for me to go.

"And if I lose then I just start from scratch. It took me a year and a half to get to this point and now I'm around zero again, so either way I was going to have a hard time."

In the men's quarter-final, the ninth-seeded South African, Kevin Curren, who knocked out top seed Ivan Lendl on Wednesday beat the unseeded Californian, Scott Davis, 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 and will meet another American, Ben Testerman, in today's semi-final. Testerman had an easy time yesterday against the 17-year-old West German, Boris Becker, winning 6-4, 6-3, 6-4. The other semi-final match matches Sweden's Mats Wilander, the defending champion and the second seed, against the fiery American, Johan Kriek, seeded fourth.

MEN'S SINGLES: QUARTER-FINALS: K Curren (SA) bt S Davis (US), 7-5, 6-2, 6-3; M Wilander (Swe) bt S Edberg (Swe), [illegible]; B Testerman (US) bt B Becker (WG), 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: SEMI-FINALS: C Lloyd (US) bt W Turnbull (Aus), 6-3, 6-3; H Sukova (Cz) bt M Navratilova (US), 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

MEN'S DOUBLES: QUARTER-FINALS: P Cash and J Fitzgerald (Aus) bt [illegible]



Chapter closed: the world No 1 after defeat

Miss Dreyer calmly takes command

By Lewine Mair

Kirsten Dreyer, aged 15, the holder of the United States 16 and under indoor title, will meet today the unassuming Elizabeth Ekblom, of Sweden, in the final of the fourth and last tournament – at Branhall – in the LTA series of $10,000 tournaments. The two met a week ago in the final at Teesside Airport.

Miss Dreyer, an admirably composed youngster who seems set to leap up the world ratings, yesterday won 6-3, 6-2 against Gabriella Dinu, a tiny but tireless Romanian, who is based in West German. Miss Dinu, aged 24, was too agitated for her own good and the sight of an ice-cool teenager on the other side of the net was no encouragement.

The top seed three times in this series, Miss Dinu has gone all four weeks without reaching a final. She is disappointed, but says cheerfully that she still has no regrets about the decision she made to opt out of her impending marriage in order to pursue her tennis career.

Miss Ekblom, a delightful but oddly doleful character, won 7-6, 6-1 against Nathalie Ballet, of France. Miss Ballet, who had been beaten in the qualifying stages of each of the previous tournaments, continued to surprise both herself and her coach early in the match with her new-found confidence. however, after she had lost the first set tie-break 8-10, the magic disappeared.

Miss Dreyer beat Miss Ekblom last week, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, and one has the feeling that her more urgent style of play will give her the edge again.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: K Dreyer (US) bt G Dinu (WG), 6-3, 6-2; E Ekblom (Swe) bt N Ballet (Fr), 7-6, 6-1.

● Cleveland, (AFP) – Eight women's doubles teams will compete for record prize money of $500,000 (about £400,000) in an invitation tournament in Carlsbad, California, next March, the Women's Tennis Association announced here yesterday. The eight top women in the WTA standings will automatically qualify for the tournament, to be played from March 1 to 3, and asked to select their partners from among the players ranked between ninth and 20th.

Wimbledon to cost more

Although the Wimbledon championships made a profit of £4.2 million this year, it will cost more to watch the event in 1985. The All England club yesterday issued their price structure for the championships from June 24 to July 7, and tickets for the centre court, and court one and two will all cost £1 more for the entire two weeks.

A centre court seat for the men's and women's finals will be £17, with the cheapest centre court seat costing £7 for the Monday and Tuesday of the first week. The dearest ticket on court one will be £11. Turnstile admission will be £4 for the first week, £3 for the second, and £2 after 5pm for both weeks.

Buzzer Hadingham, the All England Club chairman, said: "Although income from other sources, particularly from television, has grown rapidly in recent years, we take the view that it is not wise for us to depend too heavily on one area of income. Regular, but slight increases, are preferable to a freeze for several years followed by a dramatic jump."

GOLF

Ballesteros resists challenge of Faldo

Sun City, South Africa (Reuter) – Nick Faldo of Britain took four putts on the last hole to finish one stroke behind the leader and defending champion, Severiano Ballesteros, of Spain, after the first round of the million-dollar challenge tournament here yesterday. Ballesteros ended the first day on 69, with Faldo and Tom Kite, of the US, one stroke behind.

Faldo, the joint runners-up last year, had taken command with a two-under-par three at the 627-yard second hole, and gained a third shot to par on the next hole. Ballesteros pulled back with three birdies, Faldo had another birdie and then went one over par on the next hole to put them level on 33, three under par, after nine holes, three ahead of the nearest challenger.

They were the only two players to break par on the first nine, but Kite came into contention after the turn, producing four birdies but dropping two strokes after going out in 36. The first Japanese player to be invited to the tournament, Isao Aoki, could manage only a 76 to finish in joint last place with the South African, Gary Player, who designed the course.

Ballesteros, who established a tournament record 274 last year to win by five shots, pronounced himself happy with his 69. "I think my game could be a little better – but I would take three more 69s quite happily," he said.

The tournament, in the nominally independent state of Bophuthatswana, carries a first prize of $300,000 (£250,000).

Kathy Whitworth dominated the first round of the women's golf challenge match which has been introduced alongside the man's tournament for the first time.

Five US players are disputing the first prize of $65,000 (£55,000) and already Whitworth looks well set to take it with 72, level par, which puts her four strokes ahead of Donna Caponi, Laura Cole, and South African-born Sally Little, with Beth Daniel three strokes further back on 79. The women's tournament, over 54 holes, ends tomorrow and the men's event on Sunday.

SCORES: 69: S Ballesteros (Sp). 70: N Faldo (GB), T Kite (US). 73: B Crenshaw (US), D Watson (SA). 74: G. Norman (Aus), R Floyd (US), L Trevino (US). 76: I Aoki (Japan), G Player (SA).

● Alex Hay is to next month become managing director of Woburn Golf and Country Club, where he has been the professional since 1977. Hay, aged 51, began his career as an apprentice clubmaker, then became an assistant and eventually a club professional. He has been a senior member of the RGA teaching and training committee, has written five golf books, and is a member of the BBC television commentary team.

TABLE TENNIS: Desmond Douglas, the winner for the last three years, faces stiff opposition for the Charles Church title at Wembley on January 12. Among his challengers will be China's national champion, Wei Qing Quang, and Ulf Bengtsson, the European title holder, from Sweden.

FOOTBALL

Deserter Revie poised to find an oasis at Loftus Road

By Clive White

Don Revie, the man the Football Association tried to ban for 10 years for walking out on the national team, is poised to return to club management in this country after an absence of seven years. Jim Gregory, the chairman of Queen's Park Rangers, has placed him at the head of his list of preferred managers to succeed Alan Mullery and met him last night to discuss the appointment. It seems the contract will last until the end of the season, when it will be reviewed. Revie incurred the wrath of the nation in 1977 when he deserted his job as the England manager for a £340,000 four-year contract with the United Arab Emirates. England were struggling unsuccessfully to qualify for the World Cup finals at the time. However, Revie successfully fought the FA ban in the High Court two years later, but not before Mr Justice Cantley had described him as "greedy, selfish and deceitful". Revie admitted later: "I think a lot of the stick I received was deserved. I shouldn't have left until the qualifying matches were over."

His return to club management would stimulate English football, which has a shortage of famous names and personalities. Revie, now aged 57, said in a television interview yesterday: "I never thought I would get back into a tracksuit. This would give me a chance for five to six months to find out if I like it again. It suits me fine."

He added: "I have been out for a while, so I have a lot to learn about first division players. But there are some good players at Rangers. Both Terry Venables and Alan Mullery have done good jobs."

Revie: 'Suits me fine'

The short contract would enable Gregory, rather than Revie, to keep his options open. The Rangers chairman is an admirer of John Lyall, the West Ham United manager, and tried to entice him over to Loftus Road in the summer before he signed Mullery. Lyall, part of the furniture at Upton Park, *declined, but it is well known that* the offer of a new four-year contract at West Ham is still unsigned.

Also by next summer David Pleat, another of Gregory's pre-Mullery choices, would have had time to resolve contractual problems if he were interested. If the talks with Revie collapse, Gregory might even leave Frank Sibley, the coach and a former Rangers manager, in temporary charge.

Revie was one of England's most successful club managers since the war during his 13 years with Leeds United, his only club in that capacity. But Revie and his Leeds team had many critics who accused them of being cynical and stereotyped. At their best they were a reliable, well-oiled machine.

They were also unlucky, but such was their domination in the late 1960s and early 1970s that they were, nevertheless, League champions twice, Fairs Cup winners twice, FA Cup winners once and League Cup winners once. Contrastingly, they were also runners-up five times in the League, three times in the FA Cup, once in the Fairs Cup, once in the Cup Winners' Cup and once, most painfully and underservingly, in the European Cup.

Such a record made him the obvious choice as the manager of England when the position became vacant in 1974 with the dismissal of Alf Ramsay. But he was unable to transfer his club capabilities to the international arena. He used dozens of players in an attempt to please everyone, particularly the media, and in the end failed catastrophically, compared to Ramsay.

His success at Leeds had been *built up over many years of close*, almost fatherly, affinity with the players. But with England he did not have the time. He will be remembered instead just for the monetary increases he gained everyone in the England set-up and the fancy kit he arranged for the players.

After grabbing the money in 1977, he remained in the Middle East because of the financial rewards and the ill-feeling felt for him in England, and he returned only recently to his Surrey home.

Facelift planned by Millwall

Millwall yesterday moved a step nearer to a multi-million pound redevelopment of the Den. The third division club have signed contracts with SDA to build a superstore on adjoining land. If Lewisham council grant planning permission, Millwall's chairman, Alan Thorne, says: "Every inch of the ground wil be upgraded."

Plans include full terrace covering, grading of the north terrace so seating can be provided if required, new turnstiles, toilets and kiosks. The club will also explore ways of offering facilities for use by local people. Thorne said: "My relatives built the ground and, with our centenary year in 1985, it is my aim to reestablish the ground and club for a further hundred years."

Chelsea without top goalscorer

Chelsea will be without Kerry Dixon for their match against Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow. Dixon, the League's leading goal scorer with 20, is ruled out by knee ligament trouble. Derek Johnstone, the former Scottish international makes his debut alongside Gordon Davies, who also makes his first appearance since moving form Fulham.

Siggi Johnson, of Iceland, visited Sheffield Wednesday yesterday. The 18-year-old international, who passed his medical examination, said he was waiting for a work permit.

Garth Crooks returns against Newcastle at White Hart Lane tomorrow. He replaces Clive Allen.

Everton will bring in Andy Gray for only his second full game of the season at Queen's Park Rangers. He replaces the leading scorer Adrian Heath, who faces a lengthy lay off following a knee operation.

Luton winger David Moss hopes to be recalled against Aston Villa to help their fight against First Division relegation. The 32-year-old has missed the last four games with a hamstring injury. David Preece, a £150,000 signing from Walsall, makes his First Division debut in midfield.

● Sammy Nelson, the former Arsenal and Northern Ireland defender who was assistant to the Brighton and Hove Albion manager, Chris Cattlin, until a month ago, has left the club. He said yesterday he had not resigned, but was asked to go by Cattlin.

Telford will play old hands and best non-League forward

Giantkillers threaten Preston

FA CUP

Preston North End tomorrow face a task which few Canon League clubs would relish. Twice winners of the FA Cup and losing finalists as recently as 1964, they entertain Telford United, currently non-League football's most successful giantkillers, in the second round of this season's competition.

Telford's Cup record over the last three seasons is remarkable. They have knocked out Wigan Athletic, Stockport County, Northampton Town, Rochdale and Lincoln City, and have lost only twice in 11 games against League opposition: 2-1 to Tranmere Rovers in a second round replay two years ago and 3-2 to Derby County in last season's fourth round.

Stan Storton, Telford's manager, said: "Our team consists of quality players who love the challenge of Cup games against League opposition because it gives them the chance to show how good they are. They've got nothing to lose in these matches because they know they'll be back at thier jobs on Monday whatever happens, whereas the League players know thier livelihoods depend on their results."

Telford who have a reputation as one of the most attractive teams in the Gola League, drew 1-1 at Lincoln in the first round and won the replay 2-1 on their own ground.

They travel to Deepdale in the knowledge that Preston, who are attempting to avoid relegation to the Fourth division for the first time in their history, lie below Lincoln in the Third division and have the worst defensive record in the Canon League, having conceded 45 goals in 18 matches.

Telford, in contrast, are in good form. After a run of 15 games with only one victory, Storton recently recalled all members of last season's successful Cup side: Lewis, Eaton, Joseph and Alcock, and Telford have since gone seven matches without defeat. The revival has also coincided with the return after a cartilage operation of Williams, whom Storton describes as "by far the best forward in non-League football".

Williams, a plumber, scored both goals in the replay victory over Lincoln and has scored more goals in the Gola League than any other player. Storton fails to understand why League clubs have not tried to sign him. "In all our matches against League sides I haven't seen another forward fit to lace his boots", he said.

Williams, who missed Telford's last match with an ankle injury but seems certain to return against Preston, is one of several players who have followed Storton on his *managerial travels around the North* West. Storton, now a window cleaner, played for Bradford City, Darlington, Hartlepool United and Tranmere Rovers in a long League career and has since made a name for himself as one of the best managers in the non-League game.

He is wise enough not to predict the outcome of tomorrow's match but believes Telford have their fate in their own hands.

Paul Newman

Group abandon their plans for Southend

The consortium which had been hoping to take over the shares belonging to Anton Johnson, the majority shareholder at the fourth division club, Southend United, have abandoned their plans.

Alan Gershick, a spokesman for the consortium, said numerous meetings with Mr Johnson since October had broken down and agreement was now impossible. At a meeting on Wednesday, Mr Johnson lost control of the board. Michael Cranston, his solicitor, resigned as chairman and the leader of the consortium, Vic Jobson, was elected as a director.

In a statement the club said they would continue to act independently of Mr Johnson and would also seek the recovery of money which he allegedly owed the club.

Barrow appoint Kidd as player-manager

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Brian Kidd, who returned to England recently after more than three years in the United States with Fort Lauderdale Strikers, has been appointed player-manager of Barrow. Kidd, aged 35, who made more than 450 appearances for Manchester United, Arsenal, Manchester City, Everton and Bolton Wanderers, will work on a part-time basis for the Gola League club.

Bill McCullough, Barrow's chairman, said yesterday: "Brian has recently had offers to play for clubs in all four divisions, but he was keen to get into management. He could be just the man to get us back into the league."

Kidd succeeds Peter McDonnell, the former Oldham Athletic goalkeeper, who resigned over an internal matter last week but remains at the club as a player. Under McDonnell Barrow have enjoyed a good start to their first season back in the Gola League but they have lost their last four games.

● The Football Association are to advertise the post of manager of the England semi-professional team. Keith Wright, the present manager, leaves early next year to become secretary of the English Golf Union.

● Southern League clubs are voting for a successor to David Setterfield, who has resigned as chairman. John Eastment the vice-chairman, has taken over as acting chairman.

HOCKEY

Britain go in search of another medal

From Sydney Friskin, Karachi

Great Britain the Bronze medal winners at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, have come a long way in their guest for another medal – to the six nations round-robin tournament for the Champions Trophy, which starts here today on the beautiful artificial turf pitch at the Hockey Club of Pakistan.

Britain start the day's programme with a match against Spain, who stepped in after India's withdrawal. the other countries taking part are Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan.

The small British contingent of umpires and officials who arrived here yesterday by air, 10 hours behind schedule, looked exhausted, but they were happy to learn that there are no fitness problems with the team. Bernie Cotton, the acting manager looked in the pink of condition as though he might want to play himself. The British team has played one match, against the United Bank whom they defeated 4-1, with two goals from Kerly one from Clift and one from Craig from a short corner.

Spain, who finished eighth in Los Angeles, one place behind New Zealand are a hard side to beat, but they will be without one of their best forwards, Rocca, who has been suspended for two years after being sent off Los Angeles in the match against New Zealand. New Zealand came here in place of West Germany, who withdrew because of a lack of interest in this tournament.

Britain can be expected to defeat an unprepared Spanish side, but the more testing match comes tomorrow against Australia, who will be seeking revenge for the 3-2 defeat in the bronze medal play-off at Los Angeles. Alan Berry, the Australian manager, said yesterday that Australia had made five changes and the team were looking good.

Australia won this tournament last year, but Pakistan, as the World Cup holders and the Olympic champions, will be favourites on their home ground. The two sides meet on December 14, in the presence of President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan, a match billed as the *grande finale*.

Tough task for Suffolk

By Joyce Whitehead

This weekend sees the end of the pre-tournament championship matches. At Orpington sports club, Suffolk (the holders) play Essex. Suffolk has a setback in November when Norfolk held them to a 2-2 draw. Essex have beaten Lincolnshire 4-1 but the task for both teams may be tougher. Kent v Hertfordshire is the other East match.

All nine Midland counties will also be in action with the old rivals Leicestershire and Staffordshire playing at Lilleshall.

Much interest will be centred on the Nottinghamshire v Shropshire match at Highfields, Nottingham. Shropshire are as yet unbeaten, having won twice and drawn once.

Warwickshire paly Bedfordshire at Warwick University and this may be a hard struggle. While Northamptonshire and Worcestershire at Sir Christopher Hatton School in Wellingborough could have a refreshing outing.

Yvonne Dendy has been promoted. She has already played in both Berkshire matches, but as a reserve. On Sunday at Guildford she will play in her own right in place of Sue Nichol. Their opponents, Surrey, are without Jeanette Brittin.

Middlesex look strong although they are without Helen Stother. In her place will be Sue Hobden. Middlesex have had two good wins and on Sunday play struggling Sussex at Hove.

NATIONAL INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (men): South region round: Khalsa 10, Reading 8; Southgate 12, Sonning 1; Bromley 7, Oxford Hawks 2; Guildford 4, Aylesbury 1; Richmond 2, Farnham 7; Teddington 9, Chichester 3; Beckenham 5, Elesia 3; Blackheath 10, Hounslow 5; Tulse Hill W 0, London University scr; Spencer 11, Old Bordenians 8; Old Tauntonians 4, East Grinstead 3.

SKIING: SURPRISE WINNER IN WOMEN'S DOWNHILL

Miss Haas leaves the world behind

Puy Saint Vincent (AFP) – The first women's downhill race of the new Alpine World Cup season produced a dramatic first victory for Zoe Haas here yesterday. The 22-year-old Swiss, who failed to qualify for her national Olympic team, has been considering retiring after a five-year career during which her best result was a fifth place.

Ideas of retirement vanished when she recorded the day's best time of 1 min 26.30 sec despite being the 37th competitor to take her turn on the piste.

Her surprise victory left Marina Kiehl, of West Germany, in tears, since the Munich skier had believed for half an hour that she had achieved her own second World Cup win with a time of 1 min 26.35 sec. Instead she had to settle for second place, ahead of another German, Irene Epple, who registered 1 min 26.55 sec.

Conditions were ideal on the well-prepared piste and the favourites should have ruled the roost. The course, incorporating 34 gates and a drop of 565 metres, was short and difficult, with its turns near the top.

Until Miss Haas pulled off her feat, prospects had looked dismal for the Swiss team as their Olympic gold and silver medal winners, Michela Figini and Maria Walliser, were well and truly beaten by the German pair and Ariane Ehrat failed to get a time in the top three.

Miss Haas, who lived in Canada from 1962 to 1967, has never finished in the top 20 places in the overall World Cup, her best being 24th in 1981.

LEADING PLACINGS: 1, Z Haas (Switz), 1min 26.30sec; 2, M Kiehl (WG), 1:26.35; 3, I Epple (WG), 1:26.55; 4, E Kirchler (Austria), 1:26.85; 5, A Ehrat (Switz), 1:27.03; 6, M Gerg (WG), 1:27.17. British results: 64, C Booth, 1:32.97; 68, M Langmuir, 1:33.20; 71, I Grant, 1:35.23.

WORLD CUP OVERALL (after two events): equal 1: Z Haas, P Pelen (WG), 25; equal 3, M Kiehl, M Epple (WG), 20; equal 5, I Epple, P Magoni (It), 15; equal 7, E Kirchler, T McKinnayr (US), 12; equal 9, A Ehrat, E Hess (Switz), 11; equal 11, M Gerg, M-R Quario (It), 10.

The woman from nowhere: Miss Haas on her historic run

Johnson renews battle

Puy-Saint-Vincent (Reuter) – Bill Johnson, who beat the leading European downhill skiers to become Olympic champion in Sarajevo, returns to face his rivals for the first time in the new World Cup season here today. The vagaries of the Alpine winter having postponed the resumption of downhill hostilities, the American's first duel with Franz Klammer and company will be in a super giant slalom.

Johnson made Klammer, the 1976 Olympic champion, and the *other Europeans look like also-rans* on the slopes of Mount Bjelasnica last February – a triumph he had brashly predicted after his first training outing on the Sarajevo downhill course.

Two more wins in the remaining downhills of the season across the Atlantic in Aspen and on Whistler Mountain proved that his Olympic gold medal was no fluke.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Welsh students' first

The first student international match between England and Wales to be played in England will take place tomorrow at Central Park, Wigan (Keith Macklin writes). The Welsh team will comprise Rugby League-playing students from Swansea University, South Glamorgan Institute, Cardiff University and the latest student club to be formed in Wales, the Polytechnic of Wales, at Pontypridd.

The Welsh students' side has been established for only four seasons. Two years ago the English students' team went to Cardiff and beat them by more than 50 points, but since then Wales have improved considerably. Only a few weeks ago Welsh Colleges beat English Colleges twice, first at Bridgend and then at Liverpool.

In the strong Welsh side is Bryn Parfitt, a former amateur youth international who is studying at Cardiff University.

If the Welsh Students give a good account of themselves, the officials of MUSCARLA, the British Schools and Colleges Amateur Rugby League Association, will consider establishing an annual triangular tournament between English, Welsh and French students.

● Andy Platt, the young St Helens second row forward, who was sent off for alleged biting during the John Player Trophy second round game with Bradford Northern on Wednesday, could miss the Under-21 international between Great Britain and France at Albi on December 16. Platt will appear before the disciplinary committee next Thursday.

SNOOKER

Higgins and White win

Alex Higgins and Jimmy White, *the fourth seeds, came safely* through their first round match in the £150,000 Hofmeister world doubles championship in Northampton, beating Dave Martin and Graham Cipsey 5-2.

But the outsiders went 2-0 ahead before Higgins and White found their touch.

FIRST ROUND: D Reynolds and D O'Kane (NZ) bt M Gauvreau (Can) and D Fowler 5-4 Frame scores (Reynolds and O'Kane first): 69-38, 84-27, 28-62, 29-78, 27-73, 71-33, 65-24, 8-81, 64-3. P Francisco (SA) and G Miles bt C Wilson and J Johnson 5-4 frame scores (Francisco and Miles first): 21-67, 127-8, 44-55, 71-48, 65-39, 69-17, 45-57, 54-88, 72-42. Dennis Taylor and R Williams bt P Medati and P Browne 5-0 Frame Scores (Taylor and Williams first): 74-29, 91-22, 96-21, 92-31, 82-34.

BASKETBALL

Doncaster well placed

For a team that had just been beaten, John Carr Doncaster seemed remarkably content on their *return to Yorkshire in the early* hours of yesterday (Nicholas Harling writes). The reason was the club's margin of defeat, only 82-80 in their Kellogg's Cup semi-final first leg on Merseyside against FSO Cars Warrington and Liverpool Vikings, which put them in a strong position for next Thursday's return before their own supporters.

Two years have elapsed since Doncaster ended a run of four successive appearances in the final but they are now well placed to make a return against the odds.

Mark Stevens their coach, said yesterday. "We're pretty much in the driving seat."

Since Doncaster have just followed an eight-match winning run with two defeats, few neutrals had given them a chance against Vikings, who had just ended the unbeaten start of the then league leaders, Leicester on Saturday. Current form seemed to be working out when Vikings recovered from a nine-point first half deficit to take a 10-point lead with six minutes to go only for the visitors to make a strong late recovery.

Stevens singled out for praise Brantley his side's top scorer with 30 points and Streater, who collected 17 rebounds in addition to sinking 24 points.

● Bracknell Pirates, one of the only two National League first division clubs without a sponsor, are in financial difficulty and in danger of closing.

IN BRIEF

Yugoslav event cancelled for lack of snow

Officials at the Kranjska Gora in Yugoslavia have cancelled next week's men's World Cup special slalom and giant slalom races because of lack of snow.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Leigh have agreed to a transfer request from Phil Johnson, the 20 year old scrum half and former Great Britain Colts international, and have put him on the transfer list at £15,000.

RUGBY UNION: Gerry McGuinness, reserve prop, was yesterday passed fit to sit on the bench for Scotland's international with Australia at Murrayfield in Saturday.

SAILING: Mike Birch, of Canada, steered his catamaran, Formule Tag, into fourth place on the fifth day of the transatlantic Columbus route race and is now just 40 miles behind the three French leaders: Philippe Poupon in Fleury Michon, and Charante Maritime and Credit Agricole, second and third respectively.

SPORTS COUNCIL: A tax free "Sports Bond" savings scheme aimed at tapping the huge market amongst members of grass roots sports clubs and earning commission of at least £1 million for youth development at local sports level; is to be supported by the Sports Council.

FOR THE RECORD

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Bath 64, Exeter 3; Newbridge 10, Glamorgan Wanderers 6. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: United Bank 15, Civil Service 9.

SQUASH RACKETS

CUMBERLAND CUP: First division: Beckenham 3, Lambton 2; Cumberland 3, North Middlesex 2; Woodford Wells 4, Oakleigh Park 1; Wimbledon 0, Coolhurst 5.

SNOOKER

NORTHAMPTON: Hofmeister world doubles championship, first round: D Mountjoy and W Jones bt T Chappel and S Newbury 5-1; S Francisco (SA) and T Jones bt J Campbell (Aus) and W King (Aus), 5-4; A Higgins and J White bt D Martin and G Cripsey, 5-2; David Taylor and M Hallett bt E Hughes and L Dodd, 5-3.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY: Second round replay: St Helens 24, Bradford Northern 10. FIRST DIVISION: Hull 6, Leeds 10.

SHOOTING

PEKING: Pistol (women): 1, Li Yingzi, 593 points (world record).

ICE HOCKEY

UNITED STATES: National League (NHL): Edmonton Oilers 6, New York Islanders 4; Pittsburgh Penguins 7, St Louis Blues 4; Hartford Whalers 5, Montreal Canadiens 3; Detroit Red Wings 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 2; Buffalo Sabres 3, Boston Bruins 3; Los Angeles Kings 5, Chicago Black Hawks 5; Calgary Flames 4, New York Rangers 4.

FOOTBALL

CHILEAN LEAGUE: Cobresal 2, Colo Colo 0; San Luis 3, Deportes la Serena 0; Iquique 0, Arica 0; Cobreloa 1, Santiago Wanderers 1; Palestino 2, Antofagasta 0; Magallanes 2, San Felipe 2; Trasandino 1, Regional Atacama 0; Fernandez Vial 1, Universidad de Chile 0; Everton 1, Green Cross 1; Rangers 2, O'Higgins 0; Union Espanola 1, Coquimbo Unido 0; U Catolica 0, Naval 0; Huachipato 2, Audax Italiano 0. Leading positions: Zone A: 1, Cobreloa, 40; 2, Cobresal, 36; 3, Colo Colo, 34. Zone B: 1, Universidad Catolica, 35; 2, Union Espanola, 35; 3, Naval, 31.

KAMPALA: East and Central Africa Challenge Cup: Group A: Zambia 2, Tanzania 1. Group B: Malawi 1, Somalia 0. (Zambia and Malawi qualify for semi-finals).

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Kent University 0, University College London 1.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers 4, Brighton 1. Postponed: Chelsea v Birmingham.

OTHER MATCH: Cambridge University 1, Cambridge United XI 3.

BASKETBALL

KORAC CUP: Sollycolombani Cantu 104, Hapoel Haifa 85; Pall Varese 102, Renault Ghent 78, Milan 109, Stade Francais Paris 88; Orthez 97, El Gerrol 76.

RONCHETTI CUP: Pall Avellino 73, BSE Budapest 85.

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): Boston Celtics 129, Dever Nuggets 107; Philadelphia 76ers 112, Milwaukee Bucks 111; Los Angeles Lakers 104, New Jersey Nets 93; Los Angeles Clippers 110, Dallas Mavericks 108; Kansas City Kings 121, Atlanta Hawks 100.

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

MILK CUP: Fourth round replay: Tottenham Hotspur 1, Sunderland 2 (Sunderland away to Watford).

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Oxford United 1, Queens' Park Rangers 1

MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Bournemouth 4, Peterborough 1

FA VASE: Second round, replay: Berkhamsted 1, Baldock 0

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Woking 1, Watford 2

SCHOOLS MATCH: Wellingborough 1, Brentwood 2.

HUNGARIAN LEAGUE: MTK-VM 0, Zalaegerszeg 1; Debrecen 1, Ujpest Dozsa 1; Haladas Szombathely 5, Szeged 0; Eger 1 Ferencvaros 2; Bekescsaba 0, Honved 1; Tatabanya 1, Csepel 0; Pecs 0, Videoton 0; Raba Eto Gyoer 3, Vasas Budapest 1.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Folkestone 2, Welling 3. Bill Dellow Cup: Second round: Alvechurch 0, V S Rugby 3; Cheltenham 3, Moor Green 1.

CRICKET

Moxon gets his chance to claim a Test place

From Richard Streeton, Bombay

Martyn Moxon, the Yorkshire opening batsman, will finally make his first appearance of the tour when England play North Zone in a three-day game, which starts at the Wankhede Stadium here today. It has been 38 days since the England party left London, but Moxon's chances of cricket have been successively thwarted by influenza, by the death of his father, which forced him to return home, and by the need to give the likely Test players preference.

Moxon, aged 24, now has his own opportunity to claim a place in England's team for the second Test match, which starts in Delhi next Wednesday. Should Moxon, a solid, orthodox stroke-maker, make a big score this weekend, he will definitely win his first Test. England's batting collapse against the Indian spinners in the first Test match has made it essential that the batting be strengthened if possible.

Moxon would probably replace Cowdrey at No 6, remembering that Cowdrey's bowling on the expected lifeless Delhi pitch can hardly be taken into consideration. In 53 first-class matches for Yorkshire, spread over four seasons, Moxon has looked a player of quality, whose figures have not always done him justice. There is, however, little doubt about his temperament, which befits someone who was reared in the same parts as Geoffrey Boycott, whom he has not only idolized but has learned a great deal from.

Moxon: worked hard

Moxon, who made a hundred on his debut for Yorkshire, has more than once made runs when they were needed. Injured ribs prevented him winning his first England cap against West Indies last summer at home, even if, in the light of events, this might have proved a mixed blessing. Since he returned to India from his father's funeral nobody has worked harder at his fitness or looked more impressive in the nets. He is also a splendid deep fieldsman with a good arm.

French, the deputy wicket-keeper gets his second game in India as expected and Gatting, the batting success of the tour so far, takes his first rest. Gower, who like Lamb, is badly in need of runs, again leads the side, in spite of the facial injury he sustained in the field in the first one-day international at Poona on Wednesday, the result of which gave the touring side a much needed boost to morale. Gower has a badly cut and grazed nose and a bruise under his right eye, but was anxious to play and will probably bat No 3.

Once again, Allott could not be considered for today's game. He is to give his back injury another 48 hours' rest before resuming practice, and although England could clearly not risk him in the second Test match, there is no question of sending for a replacement at the moment. Downton, Fowler and Cowans join Gatting on the sidelines for this game, which brings England up against strong opposition, even if the pitch will almost certainly militate against a result.

Kapil Dev and Chetan Sharma, India's new-ball bowlers in the first Test match, are both rested, but North Zone include seven Test players. They are led by Madan Lal, whose Test career is probably behind him but who still managed nine wickets in an innings in a Ranji Trophy game this week. Prabhakar and Ghai, who took part in the one-day international, will play, while North Zone's spinners are Maninder Singh, the slow left-arm bowler India omitted from the first Test, and Kirti Azad, the all-rounder and off spinner.

North Zone's opening pair are the experienced Chauhan, the only man to pass 2,000 Test runs without scoring a century, and Siddhu, who took a hundred off West Indies for North Zone last season. Also in the ranks are batsmen of the calibre of Malhotra, who has a point or two to prove to the Indian selectors, Yashpal Sharma, Gursharan Singh, and the wicketkeeper who has several times toured as Kirmani's deputy and who bats with the freedom of Engineer or Kunderan.

NORTH ZONE (from): S Madan Lal (captain), C P S Chauhan, N S Siddhu, A Malhotra, Yashpal Sharma, Gursharan Singh, Kirti Azad, M Prabhakar, S Belson, R S Ghai, Ajay Shah, Maninder Singh, S Khanna.
ENGLAND: D I Gower (captain), A J Lamb, C S Cowdrey, V J Marks, R M Ellison, P H Edmonds, B N French, N A Foster, P I Pocock.

Settling for a draw

Bahawalpur (Reuter) – The New Zealanders' three-day match with the Punjab Governor's XI ended in a tame draw yesterday

NEW ZEALANDERS: First Innings 291 for 4 decl (E J Gray 56, J V Coney 79).

Second Innings

B A Edgar c Masood b Tahir	14
P E McEwan c Masood b Tahir	44
†J E Riednot out	55
J G Bracewell c Atiq b Anwer	20
B L Cairns not out	10
Extras (b 4, l-b 2, n-b 3)	9
Total (3 wkts)	152

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52, 2-90, 3-122.

BOWLING: Mohsin Kamal 5-1-24-0; Atiq 4-0-16-0; Altaf 9-1-29-0; Tahir 6-0-27-1 Anwer 7-1-19-2; Mohsin 3-0-18-0; Sajid 1-0-13-0.

PUNJAB GOVERNOR'S XI: First Innings

Mohsin Khan c Snedden b Chatsfield	36
Sajid Ali l-b-w b Snedden	4
Sultan Rana c Crowe b Cairns	6
Shaukat Mirza c Cairns b Boock	51
Mansoor Rana l-b-w b Snedden	28
†Masood Iqbal c Snedden b Gray	4
Mohammad Altaf b Brook 1	
Tahir Naqqash c Cairns b Gray	34
Mohsin Kamal c Cairns b Gray	9
Atiq-ur-Rehman not out	1
Extras (b 1, l-b 1, w 4, n-b 8)	14
Total	189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-48, 3-75, 4-86, 5-134, 6-143, 7-144, 8-144, 9-188, 10-189.

BOWLING: Snedden 11-1-52-2; Cairns 6-1-24-1; Chatsfield 10-3-24-1; Bracewell 18-4-39-1; Boock 28-16-24-2; Gray 11-3-24-3.

Rixon for Phillips

Adelaide (Reuter) – Allan Border, the new captain, said yesterday he was very pleased with the preparation of the Australian side, 2-0 down in the series against West Indies, for the Third Test starting at the Adelaide Oval today.

WEST INDIES (from): H Lloyd (captain), I A Richards, C G Greenidge, L Haynes, R Richardson, H A Gomes, P Dujon, D Marshall, J Garner, M A Holding, A Walsh, R A Harper.

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain), M Hogg, J Dyson, C Wessels, M Wood, K J Hughes, D C Boon, J Rixon, F Lawson, M Alderman, R J Holland, M J Bennett.

A caterpillar's eye-view of the soaring sport of hang gliding

Ascent of those magnificent men who are flying machines



Most of us feel about hang gliding the same way that the caterpillar felt when seeing a butterfly: "You'll never get me up in one of them." Today is the tenth anniversary of the British Hang Gliding Association (BHGA), although it is not the survival of the organization, so much as the survival of the members, that fills us with astonishment. We know that hang gliding is the sport of lunatics, of death-wish-filled maniacs who fling themselves off hills in the faint hope of landing softly at the bottom.

Try getting sponsorship for a hang gliding event. No one wants to know. People approached instantly see headlines like "Seventeen Killed at Coffin-Nail Cigarettes Hang Gliding Championship" and run away screaming. It is the aviation sport in which pilots drop from the sky like ripe fruit, is it not?

In vain do people like Bob Harrison, training officer with the NGHA, explain that hang gliding is the safest of all aviation sports. In vain do they say that the sport has changed, changed and changed again since death regularly flew upwards at 32 feet a second to destroy the pioneers. Eight or 10 of them died every year in the early days. Now the death rate is two a year among 4,000 BHGA members and 1,500 training members and, according to the Civil Aviation Authority, one annual pilot death per thousand pilots is evidence that acceptable safety standards are being maintained in sporting aviation.

The ground is a lot farther away from the pilots these days. The idea of fluttering crazily downhill to the bottom is thoroughly outmoded: height gains of 6,000 feet can readily be made, the British cross-country record is 130 miles, as glider technology has been revolutionized and, with it, pilot expertise. No longer do pilots look like kites, like a Leonardo design. They look like wings and they are not primarily designed for gliding down – they are meant to used for soaring, upward and onward.

The sport started on Californian sand-dunes and arrived in Britain about 12 years ago. Mostly it started with home-made kites, horrifyingly constructed from bamboo and chunks of aluminium. The pioneer's motto was "Don't fly higher than you are prepared to fall". You needed a steep hill, a strong wind and a stronger nerve. You jumped off the hill, floated to the bottom, rolled up your kite and hiked back to the top. It was like dangerous tobogganing.

"There was great excitement if you managed to cross the fence at the bottom of the field. If you landed on it, you were a hero. It was bumps and bruises and sprains", Mr Harrison said. The achievements of today's average club fliers were impossible dreams of the most talented young thrusters among the pioneers. The achievement of landing back on top of the hill was a major breakthrough. The first British hang gliding record was for duration – eight minutes.

But when the planes and the pilots became capable of soaring in thermals the endurane record shot upward and, by the time 12 hours was broken, it was apparent that the length of time spent in the air was a test not so much of pilot excellence as of hardness of the gluteal muscles. By this time the gliders had trebled in weight. They were no longer designed to be carried up and down hills. They were no longer parachutes – and, indeed, today's sports parachutes outperform the early hang gliders as flying machines.

Today's hang gliders are proper aeroplanes, with human undercarriage. The pilots need navigational skills to travel across country and, more than anything, they need a certain scientific and intuitive brilliance to read the air, to hop across England from one rising column of air to the next. "You realize you are not living on top of something", Mr Harrison said. "You are living at the bottom of an ocean of air."

Sailing technology has been plundered for fabrics non-permeable to air. Streamlining has become an obsession. Pilots no longer dangle apologetically from their wing but lie prone beneath it in an aerodynamic cocoon, carrying a parachute and often ballast. And they are intensely competitive, not only about setting records, but about winning the British League. Competitions involve tests of navigation and flying skill that stretch even the finest pilots.

High-technology is part of hang gliding now – but you can still get airborne for £400. And the sport is still about weekend dreams of ordinary chaps who yearn to fly, to fly silently and cheaply through Harrison's ocean of air. Cheaply, but also safely, he insists.

"It is not danger that hang glider pilots are looking for", he said. "But feeling safe in the midst of danger. You know you will never conquer the air. You can only survive in it. And perhaps it will get you yet." Most of us are happy to remain earthbound, leaf-chewing caterpillars. But for others, as for Mr Harrison, to swim silently through the ocean of air, safe in the midst of danger, is what sport, indeed what life, is all about: "The air is always challenging you ... it is the invisible challenge."

BOBSLEIGHING

Phipps's record intact

From Chris Moore, Winterberg

Barring unforeseen disasters, Nick Phipps will be a convincing winner of the two-man event at the British bobsleigh championships, sponsored by Allied Steel here tomorrow. He completed his training programme yesterday with his 100 per cent record intact, having won eight successive laufs in official practice this week. His main rival, the champion, Tom de la Hunty, has not been able to get within half a second of him.

On his first run yesterday the Londoner recorded the fastest time so far of 56.22 secs. That was off a start of 5.21 secs which was within one hundredth of a second of the British record start time on this West German track.

It has not been such plain sailing for some of the other less experienced drivers here, particularly when it has come to negotiation the notorious ninth corner at Winterberg. Paul Prisindki, another Londoner, having his first bash (being the operative word) at driving, has overturned three times.

TABLE TENNIS

Something to prove

Desmond Douglas will be trying to prove that his Chinese complex is a thing of the past in the Charles Church invitation event at Wembley on January 12. Yesterday's draw put the seven times English national champion into the same section as Wei Qing-quang, who is little known in Europe but at 22 is already Chinese national champion.

DRAW: Group 1: U Bengtsson (Swe), J Secretin (Fr), J Pansky (Cz), K Kai Tak (S Kor). Group 2: A Grubba (Pol), D Douglas (Eng), W Qing-quang (China), Z Kriston (Hung).

BOXING

Perspective alters for British heavies

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

The best thing to have happened to the British heavyweight scene was the visit to this country by Joe Frazier, the former world heavyweight champion, and his son, Marvis. They helped put straight our perspective as to where British heavyweights with world ambitions stand. For too long we have seen our boys growing younger, stronger and better as the world's top men grew decrepit and too feeble to hold up their hands.

Marvis Frazier, by convincingly beating Funso Banjo, of West Ham, on points at the Alexandra Pavilion, North London, on Wednesday, showed what a difficult task men like Banjo and Frank Bruno face if they want to box for the world title. Especially when one takes into account Joe Frazier's view that his son would stop Bruno, and also the fact that Marvis was himself knocked out in one round by Larry Holmes.

Marvis may also have done British boxing suporters a service. By forcing the pace, Frazier brought out the fight in Banjo that has been trying to get out for 14 contests. And now that Banjo knows that he can stay there with good opposition perhaps the public will not have to endure any moore of his boring contests.

From now on it is going to be quality opponents for Banjo", Jimmy Quill, his manager, said. "Mind you, he is still a novice but he did well and everyone loved him". Joe Frazier's views, too, could help the real Banjo keep punching away now that he has escaped from the 6ft. 5in frame. "I had a shock with your man," Joe said. "We did not expect him to fight. He will beat Bruno, but get him to jab right."

Banjo's showing has certainly put the pressuure on the Bruno camp to get for him better opponents than of late. "They can't bring in any more of those terrible opponents," Quill said.

Frank Warren, ever ready to capitalize on a good scrap, has offered Bruno £100,000 to take on Banjo. Not that it has any chance of coming off. Terry Lawless, Bruno's manager, has other ideas: he wants Bruno to challenge Steffan Tangstad, of Norway, for the European title.

The Fraziers were here for tw months in which time the No 1 son, Rodney, along with Smoking Joe Junior and even the sparring partner, Bert Cooper, appeared in British halls. They went home yesterday. I will long remember the sight of Joe holding Marvis, all 14st 8lb of him, in his arms like a baby after the but with Banjo.

Nor will I forget how he told Marvis, when he was unable to get past that long Banjo jab: "Do you want me to fight the next round, because I can do it, you know?" "No, sir!" Marvis said and then got off his stool and hooked Banjo round the ring.

Promoter's licence for Lawless



Terry Lawless (above), Britain's most successful boxing manager, is applying for a licence to become a promoter. "Because major promoters are so busy, they tend to neglect the smaller halls where young boxers traditionally learn their trade", Lawless said yesterday. "I hope to fill in one of two of the gaps and make opportunities for up-and-coming boys, including my own stable". He hopes to run shows at York Hall, Bethnal Green.

The British welterweight champion, Lloyd Honeyghan, will meet the defending champion, Gianfranco Rosi, for the European title in Milan on January 5.

Sylvester Mittee, the Commonwealth welterweight champion, will appear at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham on January 19 when Don Curry defends the world welterweight title against Colin Jones. Mittee, meets Felipe Castro, of Peru, a top contender for the WBA title.

Roy Gumbs has had his bout with Chong Pal Park for the IBF title put back a month. It will not take place on January 13.

● HONOLULU: American doctors are to campaign again for a ban on amateur and professional boxing in the United States. At their annual meeting here, the American Medical Association passed a resolution demanding that boxing be outlawed and resolved to lobby congressmen throughout the United States.

● Rod Douglas, the ABA light-middleweight cahmpion, will miss England's international against West Germany in Munster on Sunday because of bruised ribs. His place in the 14-strong team goes to John Melfa.

ENGLAND: Flyweight: M Smith; bantam: S Murphy; Feather: K Taylor; light: C Crooke; light-welter: D Jennings and E Kershaw; welter: C Blake; light-middle: J Melfa; middle: B Schumacher; light-heavy: J Moran; super-heavy: G Williamson.

● New York (AFP) – Victor Callejas of Puerto Rico will defend his World Boxing Association super-bantamweight title against Juan Veloz of Mexico on March 15 in Guyanabo, Puerto Rico.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
FA Second round
Port Vale v Scunthorpe United
Second division
Fulham v Oldham Athletic
Fourth division
Stockport County v Blackpool

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCH: Kelso v Langholm (7.0)

OTHER SPORTS
REAL TENNIS: British Invitation Mixed Doubles: Billy Ross-Skinner Cup (at Hampton Court)
SNOOKER: World Doubles (at Derngate Centre, Northampton)
SQUASH RACKETS: British championships (at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield).

RUGBY UNION: SLACK'S WALLABIES HAVE THE DISCIPLINE TO WIN THE GRAND SLAM




Slack: captain of quiet authority and fierce determination

Exchanging teaching history for making history

The gaunt, lantern-jawed Andrew Gerard Slack may not have been the obvious choice to captain Australia this year, in view of the opposition provided by the bubbling, overwhelmingly-talented Mark Ella – captain for the previous two years – and another centre, the cool and collected Michael Hawker. Yet if Australia beat Scotland tomorrow to achieve the grand slam, these eighth Wallabies will be remembered by the history books as Slack's Wallabies.

Slack's ascent to the captaincy of this country began when he succeeded two outstanding back-row forwards, Mark Loane and Tony Shaw, as Queensland's captain and led his state to a well-organized win over their primary rivals, New South Wales, early this year. He inherited the national mantle against Fiji and New Zealand; despite the 2-1 series defeat against the All Blacks, he retained the leadership, thanks surely to the quiet authority he exerts on and off the field which complements the more obvious public gifts of the Australian coach, Alan Jones – a happy linking of Australia's two main rugby-playing states.

At 29, Slack has the respect of colleagues who are aware that he has not been omitted from an Austrlian national squad for some 40 selections. Yet, having his feet firmly on the ground, he retains his approachability. It is typical that he did not realize he had become his country's most-capped centre on this tour until Bill McLaren, the BBC commentator, pointed it out.

Slack is the oil in the works of this Australian party. It is appropriate that his is the guitar leading the song during the team's post-match happy hour. "I play a bit", he says. No Wagnerian thundering from Slack – his preference in music is a simple folk tune or the melodies of Strauss. On the field it is the quiet word of encouragement, the constant support, which is the hallmark of his play.

But his comparatively withdrawn demeanour masks a fierce determination and concentration on the job of captaincy which shows most obviously at the press conferences which follow international matches when he appears – and is – drained and exhausted. "You can say what you like about rugby in Britain, but all the internationals have been bloody hard."

The youngest in a family of three his elder brother, once a budding scrum half and now a priest, enchanted a congregation by beginning a sermon: "I have some good and bad news for you today. The good news is that Australia have beaten England – the bad news it that I'm still going to preach a sermon", Slack is from Brisbane where his mother runs a hotel. He began playing rugby as a nine-year-old and, in his early teens, played Rugby League as well. That experience emphasized for him the importance of the tackle, though not the quality of handling and passing.

He trained as a teacher and enjoyed a career passing on the rudiments of history and English to children from 11 upwards. But, a month before the tour began he took up a new post as a sports correspondent, one of his first assignments being to interview those British luminaries of bowls, David Bryant and Willie Wood. Although Slack had no knowledge of bowls, Bryant spoke of how yoga helped in the preparation for tournaments and that was the peg for his story.

Slack himself is one of the pegs on which this tour's success has hung. Another is Jones, and Slack's respect for the coach's thorough preparation and variety in training is obvious. There have been talented Australian sides in Britain before yet none has reached the position of three up with one to go. Slack points the difference on this tour as the tight forwards, yet emphasizes how much backs and forwards work *together* in training.

"We have worked more on individual skills than anything else. Take someone like Andy McIntyre (the tight-head prop) – three or four years ago he couldn't catch a cold. Now his handling is as good as any of the forwards while the backs are trained to react properly at rucks and mauls.

"The discipline of this party has been tremendous. Take the game against Wales – the happy hour afterwards was out of this world and I thought our players would leave Cardiff in ruins. But by the time they reached the official dinner in the evening they were much quieter because they all knew the tour was by no means over and Scotland were still to come.

"We've got some good players but we've seen some good players here too. We were pretty impressed with Stuart Barnes when he played for the South and South-West in the second match, but when it came to the England match and his side was 19-3 down, Barnes got the ball in his own 22 and just booted it away. It was as though he had looked up at the stand and thought 'someone up there's watching to see if I make a mistake', as though he was afraid to take the risk of running at us in case it didn't come off. You've got to be prepared to take the risk."

There have been few "blues" – Australian for mistakes – from Slack on this trip, his eighth tour. It is in character that he considers he made a bad one during his speech after the international with England. In congratulating the players he referred to Melville and Farr-Jones, the opposing scrum halves, as both developing into world-class players. Immediately he was aware of how Philip Cox, who came to Britain as the first-choice scrum half, must have been feeling.

The conditions of Slack's new employment mean that he will retire from representative rugby when he returns home, although he considers he has several years left in the game. Had he not proved a successful rugby player he would dearly have loved to play cricket for his country: there may be one or two cricketers currently under the hammer of the West Indies who would dearly love to change places with Australia's rugby captain.

David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Small clubs of the valleys come into sharp focus

By Gerald Davies

The Welsh Cup, sponsored by Schweppes, enters its second round tomorrow. Whereas many of the smaller clubs will have remained largely anonymous among the vast numbers who took part in the first round, they come into sharper focus in the second, one or two clubs invariably emerging to perplex anyone whose geography is not up to scrtch.

We may know perhaps that Dunvant is in Swansea. Like many an English club but untypical of Wales, they run 11 sides. For the first time they entertain one of the major clubs, South Wales Police, who in recent years have emerged as a force, as it were, to be reckoned with in Welsh rugby.

The Swansea club itself is away to Cilfynydd in the Valley, which the world should know as the village which produced two opera singers, Sir Geraint Evans and Stuart Burroughs, and a prominent Labour politician and former Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees. Cilfynydd are coached by Joe Smith, the former player and coach of Pontypridd, who took them to the final in 1979. His old club will be away to Llandovery, a town that should be familiar enough to anyone.

However, those following Cardiff – who have been drawn only once at home in the last eight cup matches – will need to be careful that they go to the Bryncoch club near Neath and not be diverted to the other Bryncoch, which is near Bridgend.

It is near Bridgend that this round's outstanding teaser may be found. It needed a leap in the dark to find Heol-y-Cyw and it will need much more from those across the border to pronounce it. They are away to Neath. Much to their relative peace of mind all the other major clubs are drawn at home, apart from Llanelli and Newbridge, who will have to pull out all the stops to win at Risca and Ystalyfera respectively.

Abertillery, who came through in injury-time against Blackwood in the last round, will have their mettle tested further by Llanharan. No real upsets are expected and at least one of the smaller clubs – in the match between Gowerton and Haverfordwest – is guaranteed a third-round place.

Draw: Aberavon v Tenby; Abertillery v Llanharan; Bridgend v Blaina; Bryncoch v Cardiff; Cilfynydd v Swansea; Dunvant v South Wales Police; Ebbw Vale v Wrexham; Gowerton v Haverfordwest; Llandovery v Pontypridd; Maesteg v Seven Sisters; Neath v Heol-y-Cyw; Newport V Llantrisant; Pontypool v Kidwelly; Risca v Llanelli; Rumney v South Glamorgan Institute; Ystalyfera v Newbridge.

New Zealand boys will liven the scene

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

The schools' scene will be dominated for the next seven weeks by the tour of England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the Netherlands by the New Zealand Secondary schools; those who remember the brand of football provided by previous Antipodean schools sides will await a glimpse of the style and standard of this touring tema with the keenest interest.

The schools county season is well under way in most areas; after their convincing win (20-4) at Harwick against South of Scotland, Lancashire 18 group face Warwickshire at Waterloo on Sunday; the match, which follows the 16 group encounter at 12.30, kicks off at 2.15.

Kirkham GS, who have two of their side playing at Hawick, experienced an indifferent start to the season but have not lost since a narrow defeat by RGS Lancaster in early November. Their recent 13-10 win over Rossall, ended an unbeaten record and was mainly due to the talent of Preston, their outstanding stand-off half who scored two treis against Rossall. He plays in the centre for Lancashire.

Rossall also lost (16-3) to Sedbergh, but finished their season with a narrow victory (13-12) over RGS Lancashire. Both matches were hard fought, and the Sedbergh game was dominated by the winners' loose forwards; only brave defence by Rossall kept the scoreline close until the final quarter.

Rugby have enjoyed mixed fortunes, losing in recent weeks to Bedford (20–0), drawing with Warwick (4–4), but registering good victories over Old Rugbeians (12–3), St Edward's, Oxford (11–6), and Oundle (3–10); Bloxham have also had a good term with 12 wins, two draws and four losses, and a share in the Shore Trophy, having drawn (4–4) with King James's College, Henley, in the final of the Oxfordshire Schools Cup.

Scots boost

The Scottish Rugby Union have renewed their sponsorship agreement with the Royal Bank of Scotland for all international matches played at Murryfield during the seasons 1985-86 and 1986-87 (Ian McLauchlan writes). The six figure sum involved will be used for the further development of rugby in Scotland.

The present season of internationals sponsored by the Royal Bank begins tomorrow when Scotland play Australia, and continues with Scotland v Ireland on February 2 and Scotland v Wales on March 2.

Schools XV

Three players from last year are retained in the Scottish schools international team to meet New Zealand Secondary schools at Murrayfield on December 15: Wright, of Dollar Academy, Swann, of Glenalmond; and Robertson, of Dollar Academy.

A S A Baird (Glenalmond); B J P Hastly (George Watson's), A J Nicol (Kelso HS), A J Brogan (Kelvinside), D Millar (Merchiston Castle); C Malone (Oban HS), J Robertson (Dollar); B L Renwick (Hawick HS), M S Robertson (Dunblane HS), C D Cameron (Galashiels), J F Swanson, M C Walker (both Edinburgh Academy), G Swann (Glenalmond), J C Jarrold (Fettes), M Wright (Dollar). Replacements: R I M Bannerman (Hawick HS), R Kemp (Galashiels), J W D Bowsher (Glenalmond), K D McKenzie (Dunblane HS), B R A McCreath (Loretto), C J Pearson (Dollar).

Confident Bailey

By David Hands

Mark Bailey, the Cambridge University captain, is confident that he will be able to lead his side against Oxford University at Twickenham next Tuesday, despite having played no more than five full matches this season. Bailey, who has suffered from inflamed tendons and stretched ligaments in his foot, has not appeared in any of Cambridge's first-class matches since the opening shots of the term were fired against Cambridge City.

Cambridge have had the assistance this season of Sue Whitney, aged 26, a physiotherapist, who will take over the role of trainer next Tuesday in the absence of the regular spongeman, Chris Hale. "I will be the first woman to run on to Twickenham since Erica Roe, but I will have my clothes on," she said.

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester and former England hooker, returns for his club second team against Nottingham seconds, tomorrow after completing the 30-day suspension imposed after he was sent off playing for the Midlands against the Australians last month. Another front row forward, Rendall, the Wasps prop, makes his first senior appearance against London Scottish after recovering from injury.

Underwood stands out

By Bryan Stiles

Rory Underwood, the England wing, produced touches of aggressive skill that transformed a scrappy inter-command conflict into a one-sided rout at Halton yesterday afternoon when RAF Support Command beat RAF Strike Command 27-9.

His talents were ignored by his colleagues in Support Command for most of the first half and they paid the penalty to trail 9-3. He received the balll only once before the interval and completely outmanouvred the opposition defence which almost brought a try.

With his first two touches of the ball in the second half he scored a brace of tries which set up his team's victory by two goals, three tries and a penalty goal to a goal and a penalty goal.

The game highlighted the talents of the players who will form the nucleus of the side for the RAF team's season which begins next Wednesday against Bredford.

Strike Command missed their guiding force, John Orwin, Gloucestershire's second-row forward.

SCORERS: Support Command: Tries: Sutherland, Underwood (2), Aherne, Allison. Conversions Lazenby (2). Penalty goal: Lazenby. Strike Command: Try: Mycock. Conversion: Evans. Penalty goal: Evans.

RACKETS

Prenn free of tournament pressures

By William Stephens

Contrary to speculation, John Prenn, who lost his world title to William Boone, last Saturday, has no intention of retiring. He is competing with Boone and other top players in the Celestion Invitation singles which begins today at Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, Marlborough, Wellington and Winchester.

While saluting Boone as a brilliant new holder of the world title, players are paying tribute to the outgoing champion, Prenn, who set the finest example in his ambassadorial role for the game internationally, as his immediate amateur predecessors, Geoffrey Atkins, Howard Angus, and William Surtees, had done.

Those fortunate to watch Prenn at his peak when playing Surtees for the world championship in New York three years ago saw only glipses of his top form in Montreal at the beginning of the last game, and at Queen's Club towards the end of the third and, as it turned out, deciding game. While Boone at his best deservedly won the title he has so long coveted, Prenn now has no pressure in aiming for the top again.

ICE SKATING

MOSCOW: Ice dance competition, compulsory figures: 1, N Bestemianova and A Bukin (USSR), 0.6; 2, M Klimova and S Ponomarenko (USSR) 1.2; 3, O Volinskaya and A Svinin (USSR) 1.8. British placing: 9, S Wilkinson and P Panaui, 5.4.

SQUASH RACKETS

Dope tests for men in national tournament

By Rex Bellamy

Men competing in the British national championships, to be played in Sheffield from tomorrow until next Thursday under the sponsorship of Inter-City, will for the first time have to submit to random dope tests during the later rounds. The tests have been requested by the Sports Council, as part of a general policy covering all sports. Squash players are not under suspicion. Indeed, a harsh joke going the rounds is that some players thought the notification of dope tests was a reflection on their IQ.

There will be no tests on women. Christina Myers, the secretary of the Women's Squash Rackets Association, said yesterday: "We don't feel that the players have had adequate notice that such tests are on the way. But we will probably introduce tests later this season".

The men's draw includes a former Rhodesian international, Rob Shay, who captained Warwickshire. Another player who represented Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Norman Ingledew, is ineligible for the national championship and the inter-county event. The difference is that Shay did not play for his former country in an official team event and Ingledew did. So Ingledew, a jet pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, has temporarily been grounded as far as top-class squash is concerned.

A former runner-up for the British junior championship, Ingledew is stationed at Yeovilton and was recently runner-up to Robbie Robinson in the Combined Services championship. Ingledew's parents are English and although he was born in Johannesburg he is a British citizen. He is barred because, during the 1981 world championships in Sweden, he played at first string for Zimbabwe. Ingledew had previously played for South Africa in an unofficial match against the United States.

Colin Dowdeswell, who has a similar background, has been allowed to play tennis for Rhodesia and Britain in turn. It seems reasonable that Ingledew should be barred from the England team, but there is no reason why such a high flyer should be excluded from other national events.

● Organizers of the British national championship were still waiting to learn last night whether seven leading players would appear after their threat of a boycott. The players, six of them among the top eight seeds and including the defending champion, Phil Kenyon, are not satisfied with the £13,000 prize money on offer.

CYCLING: East Germany were the world's top nation this year in amateur road racing, according to an official ranking published yesterday by the International Cycling Union

VOLLEYBALL

Valued lessons learned at masters' hands

By Paul Harrison

British interest in the European Champions' Cup will end on Sunday, when both Capital City Spikers and Hillingdon Ladies will lose to their much stronger Bulgarian opponents.

This season's campaiggn has lasted longer than most. English clubs do not usually get past the opening round. To reach the last 16 at all was, therefore, an advance. To play agaiinst teams of the stature and experience of CSKA Sofia and Levski Spartak will have done nothing but good. Sunday's match is at Eastway Sports Centre, Leyton, east London.

While Spikers have been preoccupied with European affairs, life on the domestic front has been continuing. Team Mizuno will meet Speedwell Rucanor in the semi-finals of the English Cup in March. Mizuno beat Portsmouth All Sports, of division three, 3-0 in west London last weekend. Speedwell defeated second division Malory by the same score.

Spark reached the other semi-final, overcoming Newcastle (Staffs) another second division side, also 3-0. They will play the winners of the tie between Spikers and Poole CBC.

In the Royal Bank League, north of the border, Volvo Trucks beat Bellshill Cardinals to stay top of the first division.

RACING: MRS DICKINSON DELAYS DECISION ON REPLACEMENT JOCKEY FOR BROWNE'S GAZETTE

Right Regent can be king for a day

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

The result of the Comrie Handicap Hurdle run over three miles on soft ground at Chepstow last Saturday could possibly hold the key to the outcome of the Coral Golden Hurdle qualifier at Cheltenham today. Carrying 4lb overweight, Right Regent won that race at Chepstow very easily indeed by eight lengths.

After a period in the doldrums, that performance finally pointed to him having recaptured his sparkling form of three seasons ago when he was good enough to win the Challow Hurdle at Newbury from such accomplished performers as Baron Palles, Gallaher, Bright Oasis and Angelo Salvini.

This suggests that Right Regent will be a very tough nut to crack again this afternoon, so much so that I think he constitutes a good nap, even though he will be carrying more weight than he would if this handicap were extended to embrace its full range. At his best, Right Regent would be giving weight to most of his rivals this afternoon instead of getting weight from them.

Earlier in the day Richard Linley looks poised to win yet another race for Sheikh Ali Abu Kamsin on Gala's Image (12.30). After a promising performance at Newbury this four-year-old by the same sire as the dual champion hurdle winner, Monksfield, won his next race in style at Kempton Park. Now he should follow that with another win in the first division of the Bristol Novices Hurdle.

The Food Brokers-Armour Handicap Chase looks full of pitfalls for the punter on the other hand, with Scot Lane, Maori Venture, Prince Rowan, Onapromise and Doorlatch all standing their ground. With five victories to his name at Cheltenham, Scot Lane is bound to command a strong local following. Yet at the age of nearly 12 he is starting to get a bit long in the tooth and in this instance I prefer Doorlatch, who is nearly half his age.

Judged on the way that he beat A Kinsman over a fraction more than three miles at Sandown in the autumn, Doorlatch will be in his element racing over today's distance at three miles and a furlong. In the circumstances he was not disgraced at Ascot last month when he finished a well-beaten second to Cybrandian in the H & T Walker Steeplechase, which was run over a considerably shorter distance.

Today's Embassy Premier Steeplechase qualifier has a very tricky appearance. At his best Gambir would be hard to beat, but he ran abominably in his last race at Wincanton for which there is no explanation. Lean Ar Aghaidh is a horse with no little ability, but I suspect that he would prefer the ground to be firmer and the distance to be further.

Josh Gifford poses a problem by deciding to run Catch Phrase in addition to Our Fun, who won at Sandown Park last Saturday. While Catch Phrase is probably the better, recent form points to hisstablecompanion. Macoliver and Destiny Bay are much of a muchness judged on their last run against one another at Newbury.

I am happy therefore to side with Gratification from Fred Winter's stable even though this will be his first race over fences. Winter's horses are always taught to jump well and Gratification, who has the build of a steeplechaser, has run well over hurdles this season at Sandown and Ascot.

At Devon and Exeter, Cats Eyes has a good chance of being the first leg of a double for Martin Pipe, who also trains Right Regent. His recent victory there by 12 lengths over Meldon Lady suggests he should easily confirm his superiority on 5lb worse terms in the Malden Timber Novices Hurdle qualifier.

Half an hour later Silva Linda, a winner for Fred Winter at Chepstow last Saturday, can continue in her winning vein by taking the Blackdown Stud Challenge Trophy Mares Only Novices Chase.

Giddycan, who won the Twysden Challenge Cup 12 months ago turns out again with 12st on his back, 20lb more than on the corresponding occasion last year. Well though he ran behind Lucky Vein in his last race, I cannot help doubting whether he can manage to give 23lb to Memberson, who beat Dargai by six lengths



Martin Pipe: double chance

Tuck warms up for battle of the Lads

By Michael Seely

Phil Tuck showed himself to be in fine form for his reunion with Burrough Hill Lad at Wetherby on Saturday when riding his twentieth winner of the season on Inkling in the Tote Novices Chase at Uttoxeter yesterday. After a hard-fought battle over the last two fences the 2-1 favourite withstood the sustained challenge of Northern Bay to win an exciting race by a length.

"I'm looking forward to being on Burrough Hill Lad's back again," the jockey, who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Jenny Pitman's magnificent chaser at Cheltenham last March, said. "I also enjoyed winning on Inkling this afternoon. I'm sorry that Steve (Youlden) had to miss out after his accident at Sedgefield, but I'm afraid that's the ups and downs of racing."

Inkling gave Harry Wharton his fourth victory of the season from the 12 horses he trains at Wetherby. "This horse was a useful, tough hurdler who stays well and has taken to fences", Wharton said. "If things continue to go Inkling's way, he could well end up in the line-up for the Sun Alliance Chase, at Cheltenham".

Neither Mrs Pitman or Monica Dickinson are showing any sighs of backing down from the eagerly awaited confrontation between the two best chasers in training at Wetherby tomorrow.

"Stan Riley, Burrough Hill Lad's owner doesn't like Haydock and sees no point in running there for £5,000 instead of £15,000 at Wetherby," Mrs Pitman said. "It's my job to domy best for him and I'm happy to be taking on Wayward Lad, even if our horse does end up by having a hard race".

Mrs Dickinson is also looking forward to taking on Gaye Brief with Browne's Gazette in Cheltenham's Bula Hurdle. "I'm under no illusn about the difficult task facing us", she said. "Gaye Brief is a very good hurdler indeed, but there's no harm in trying to find out where we stand. And don't forget that the big meeting at Cheltenham is still a long way off."

No decision has yet been reached about a jockey for Browne's Gazette, who is owned by the Coventry City chairman, John Poynton. Dermot Browne, last season's champion amateur and Browne's Gazette's regular jockey, is out of action after breaking his collarbone for the fourth time in a fall on Green Menelek at Hexham.

Graham Bradley is still feeling the effects of the injury he sustained when spraining a wrist at Leicester on Tuesday. "We'll have to wait and see how Graham is in the morning, before deciding what to do", Mrs Dickinson concluded.

● Combs Ditch, who almost died when collapsing after the 1983 Cheltenham Gold Cup, makes his come back at Cheltenham tomorrow after a 20-month lay-off. David Elsworth, his trainer, said at Taunton yesterday: "Combs Ditch was in a terrible state after his Gold Cup run and I thought he was finished. We never found out what caused his distress. He recovered, but banged a leg last winter and was fired.

CHELTENHAM (BBC)

[Televised; BBC1: 2.15, 2.50, 3.25]

GOING: good to soft

Tote double: 1.40, 2.50. Treble: 1.15, 2.15, 3.25.

12.30 BRISTOL NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £1,514: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

102	31	GALA'S IMAGE (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) Mrs M Rimell 4-11-5	R Linley
103	0-31	MEISTER (A Gratton) J Old 4-11-5	P Murphy
104	0040p-0	ALANGROVE SOUND (N Brookes) N Brookes 5-11-0	M N Brooks
106	p0	BARDSEY (Ryland Vehicle Group) R Hollinshead 4-11-0	J Francome
107	0022-2f	BURANNPOUR (BF) (W Weinstein) A Jarvis 4-11-0	G Newman
110	200-	FIGHTER PILOT (P Gray) M Pipe 4-11-0	P Scudamore
111	002334-	FIRING PARTY (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 7-11-0	B De Haan
113	0	INSIGNIA (P Reynolds) F Walwyn 6-11-0	S Shilston
115	00/0000	MASTER CONE (M Reid) M Reid 7-11-0	P Carvill
116	4	MAUJENDOR (T Sivier) M Tate 4-11-0	R Hyett
117		MOON MARINER (W Mullins) D Elsworth 4-11-0	C Brown
119	000-p0	PEARLROY (Mrs J Fraser) Mrs J Fraser 5-11-0	J Suthern
120	0	PONTIN BOY (Pontin Holidays) H Thomson Jones 5-11-0	S Smith Eccles
121	40	SUMMONS (BF) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 5-11-0	Peter Hobbs
122	0/0	TEN BELOW (Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk) Lady Herries 6-11-0	M Kinane
123	2	CORAL DELIGHT (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 5-10-9	NON-RUNNER

1983: Baz Bambati 5-11-5 J Nolan (11-1) S Mellor 13 ran.

7-4 Gala's Image, 3 Burannpour, 9-2 Moon Mariner, 6 Meister, 7 Firing Party.

FORM: GALA'S IMAGE, (11-0) beat Mount Bolus (11-7) at Kempton (2m hdle, £1,450, good to soft, Nov 22, 15 ran). MEISTER, (11-0) beat Fraud Squad (11-0) by 3l at Devon (2m 1f hdle, £548, soft, Nov 13, 17 ran). BURANNPOUR, fell early on last time, earlier (11-0) 10l 2nd to Statesmanship (11-6) here (2m hdle, £4,339, soft, Nov 9, 6 ran). FIRING PARTY, (11-2) 8l 4th to Misty Dale (11-2) at Warwick (2m 5f, £828, soft, Mar 6, 28 ran).

Cheltenham selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Gala's Image. 1.05 Toirdealbhach. 1.40 Lonach. 2.15 Door Latch. 2.50 Gratification. 3.25 RIGHT REGENT (nap).

By Michael Seely

1.05 King's Jug. 2.15 Prince Rowan. 3.25 RIGHT REGENT (nap).

1.05 KINETON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,944: 2m) (6)

201	13021-0	TOIRDEALBHACH (CD) (K Harpur-Crewe) P O'Connor 10-11-12	—
203	p014-02	MIDNIGHT SONG (D) (Mrs D Price) T Forster 9-11-8	P Croucher
204	0a0-020	GREENWAYS (C) (B) (A Moore) A Jarvis 9-11-1	K Burke
205	100-00p	WATER ROCK (CD) (J Thorne) J Thorne 9-11-0	J Hurst
206	0-10024	LATIN AMERICAN (D) (J Ritchie) T Forster 7-10-12	M Pitman
207	104-221	KING'S JUG (D) (David Tonothy Ltd) Mrs M Rimell 6-10-12 (6 ex)	G Charles-Jones

1983: Water Rock 8-10-0 P Dever (5-1) J Thorne 8 ran.

3 King's Jug, 7-2 Toirdealbhach, 4 Midnight Song, 9-2 Greenways, 6 Latin American, 10 Water Rock.

FORM: MIDNIGHT SONG, (11-7) 4l runner-up to Misty Fort (10-11) at Newbury (2m ch, £2,376, good to soft, Nov 14, 5 ran). GREENWAYS, (11-4) 16½l 5th to Arctic Menelek (10-11) over 3m, earlier (10-0) 6½l 5th to Restless Shot (10-4) over course and distance with TOIRDEALBHACH (10-6) 2l away 6th (£4,142, soft, Nov 9, 8 ran). Last year TOIRDEALBHACH (10-1) beat Cardinal's Outburst (10-0) by ¾l over course and distance with WATER ROCK (10-4) 27l away in 5th (£4,320, good to firm, Apr 11, 7 ran). LATIN AMERICAN (11-7) 15½l 4th to Tom Tailor (10-13) at Fontwell (2m 2f ch, £2,343, soft, Nov 20, 7 ran). KING'S JUG (10-1) beat Lefrak City (10-4) by 4l at Wincanton (2m ch, £1,612, good, Nov 29, 7 ran).
Selection: TOIRDEALBHACH.

1.40 BRISTOL NOVICE HURDLE (Div II; £1,500: 2m 4f) (16 ran)

302	00-0120	LONACH (A Leather) G Balding 5-11-5	R Linley
303		AGINTRY (D Pitcher) D Pitcher 6-11-0	Mr K Pitcher
304	00033-3	ARAPAHO PRINCE (Middlerlver Trading Co) J Edwards 5-11-0	S Morshead
305	00-	CELTIC HAMLET (A Sitson) P Cundell 5-11-0	P Double
306		DEEP WOOD (T N Bailey) T Bailey 4-11-0	P Carvill
307	3b/0	DRAGON PALACE (D Winfield) D Elsworth 6-11-0	C Brown
309	0340-	HORN OF PLENTY (C Moorsom) J Edwards 5-11-0	P Barton
310	00-130	KAMIR (J Marshall) A Jarvis 4-11-0	NON-RUNNER
311		MASTER BOB (E Wills) N Henderson 4-11-0	J White
312	00	OAKLEY HOUSE (R Robbins) P Cundell 4-11-0	NON-RUNNER

[illegible]

FORM: ARAPAITO PRINCE (11-0) beaten 20l into 3rd behind Jolly Mac (11-0) at Worcester (2m 4f hdle, £760, soft, Nov 21, 24 ran). DRAGON PALACE (11-0) 7th to The Haciendero (11-0) at Newbury (2m 100yds hdle, £2012, heavy, Nov 24, 13 ran). HORN OF PLENTY, never nearer 5th (11-3) beaten 10½l by Aonoch (11-0) over 2m at Chepstow, previously (11-7) 14½l nth of 10 to Brown Trix there (2m 4f hdle, £5671, soft, Feb 18). KEMIR, only 10th to Joy Ride last time, earlier (11-0) beat Paulstin (11-0) a head at Toucester (2m hdle, £634, good, Nov 15, 17 ran).
Selection: HORN OF PLENTY.

2.15 FOOD BROKER–ARMOUR HANDICAP CHASE (£5,943: 3m 1f) (8)

402	10040-p	SOINTULLA BOY (Mrs H Houlbrooke) Mrs H Houlbrooke 9-11-7	Mr T Houlbrooke
403	4p8-404	SCOT LANE (CD) (T Isherwood) M Tate 11-10-13	C Smith
404	12fp-20	MAORI VENTURE (Major J Rubin) A Turnell 8-10-11	Steve Knight
406	11/13-p	PRINCE ROWAN (BF) (J Poynton) Mrs M Dickinson 8-10-10	R Earnshaw
408	3311-0	ONAPROMISE (C) (T Macdonald) Denys Smith 8-10-7	C Grant
409	3321-12	DOOR LATCH (H Joel) J Gifford 6-10-7	P Hobbs
410	142-404	HERR CAPTAIN (A Whettham) J Old 8-10-4	R Linley
412	6f204-1	KNOCK HILL (P Thompson) J Webber 8-10-2	G Mernagh

1983: Musso 7-10-0 B de Haan (5-1) F Winter 8 ran.

2 Door Latch, 3 Knock Hill, 9-2 Prince Rowan, 7 Scot Lane, 8 Herr Capitan, Maori Venture, 12 others.

FORM: SCOT LANE (10-7) 11½l 4th and ONAPROMISE (10-7) 10l further back last of 5 behind Wayward Lad (12-0) at Haydock (3m ch, £7167, good to soft, Nov 21). MAORI VENTURE, never dangerous 6th (10-13) to Half Free (11-10) in the Mackeson, previously (11-10) 4l 2nd of 4 to Young Lover (10-10) at Newbury (2m 4f ch, £2704, good, Nov 7). PRINCE ROWAN, pulled up on reappearance, previously (10-5) 4l 3rd of 7 to Phil the Fluter (10-0) at Wetherby (3m 100yds ch, £7256, soft, Dec 26). DOOR LATCH, 20l 2nd (11-0) to Cybrandian (10-8) at Ascot over 2m 4f, previously (11-4) beat A Kinsman (11-7) 3l at Sandown (3m 118yds ch, £4643, firm, Nov 3, 5 ran). HERR CAPITAN (10-10) every chance when faller 2 out, then remounted to finish 4th to Hallo Dandy (11-2) at Kempton (3m 5f ch, £2820, good to soft, Nov 22). KNOCK HILL (11-7) beat Oonaghs Fancy (10-2) 10l at Newbury (3m ch, £2448, good to soft, Nov 14, 5 ran).
Selection: DOOR LATCH.

2.50 EMBASSY PREMIER CHASE (Qualifier: £2,540: 2m 4f) (9)

502	3211-20	GAMBIR (CD) (BF) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 8-11-10	P Scudamore
504	1112p-4	LEAN AR AGHAIDH (D) (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 7-11-10	M Perrett
505	00p-121	OUR FUN (M Tabor) J Gifford 7-11-10	P Nicholls
507	11100-p	CATCH PHRASE (K Carr) J Gifford 6-11-5	Peter Hobbs
509	421p-13	DESTINY BAY (D) (G Johnson) N Henderson 6-11-5	S Smith Eccles
510	111p-44	GRATIFICATION (Mrs B Samuel) F Winter 7-11-5	J Francome
511	32f4-02	MACOLIVER (A Bingley) C A Bell 6-11-5	I H Davies
512		ROSY GLEAM (H Manners) H Manners 7-11-5	Mr S Bush 7
514	110-020	DISHCLOTH (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 10-11-10	J Bryan

1983: No corresponding race.

11-4 Our Fun, 3 Lean Ar Aghaidh, 7-2 Gratification, 5 Destiny Bay, 7 Gambir, 8 Macoliver, 14 others.

FORM: GAMBIR (11-7) finished distressed when 8th to Beau Ranger (10-1), previously (11-10) 10l 2nd to Brave George (11-5) at Newbury (2m 4f ch, £2,582, good, Oct 26, 8 ran). LEAN AR AGHAIDH, (11-5) 46l 4th to Cybrandian (10-8), last year (11-7) beat Claude Monet (10-7) by 10l at Sandown (3m ch, £2,882, good, Feb 3, 12 ran). OUR FUN, (10-12) beat Freight Forwarder (11-4) by 3l at Sandown (2m ch, £3,803, good to soft, Dec 1, 5 ran). GRATIFICATION, (10-11) 26½l 4th to Gaye Brief (10-11) at Ascot (2m 4f hdle, £9,768, good, Nov 18, 5 ran). MACOLIVER, (11-0) 3l 2nd to Great Light (11-8) at Newbury, DESTINY BAY (11-5) 5l away 3rd and useful hurdler CATCH PHRASE (11-0) pulled up after a mistake (2m 4f ch, £3,960, soft, Nov 24, 8 ran).
Selection: LEAN AR AGHAIDH.

3.25 CORAL GOLDEN HURDLE (Qualifier: handicap: £3,015: 3m) (18)

601	4fpp2u-	FEARLESS SEAL (Sir G Glover) R Hollinshead 7-11-10	Mr A Hollinshead 7
602	2112-00	LAWNSWOOD MISS (CD) (A Hill) D Nicholson 6-11-9	P Scudamore
605	2130-00	I HAVENTALIGHT (B Brazier) F Winter 6-11-8	J Francome
606	03010-1	SPACED OUT (C) (L Phipps) T Bailey 8-11-8	Mr B Dowling 7
607	31114-0	ANEX (D) (D Tyler) Mrs N Smith 7-11-3	NON-RUNNER
608	1b422-	HOPEFUL SAINT (D) (Lady E Nugent) D Nugent 6-11-1	C Mann
613	p2p-000	JOHN WILLOUGHBY (A Aylett) A Aylett 5-10-6	G Jones
614	104p-00	CELTIC TIME (Mrs R Dimmer) A Turnell 7-10-8	Steve Knight
615	-10/30-0	NOBLE PATROL (A Shaw) C James 10-10-7	G McCourt
618	00p03-0	MISS WILLIE (D) (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 5-10-1	W Knox 7
619	000-000	MAC'S TREASURE (D) (Mac's Garage Ltd) J Old 7-10-0	P Murphy
620	20-441f	SHIRLEY GROVE (D) (C Morfitt) P Bevan 6-10-0	S Morshead
621	4/00c-0	WARNER FOR SPORT (T Warner Sports) M Tate 7-10-0	C Smith
623	2p/003-	LE SARTHOIS (T Raggett) Mrs S Davenport 7-10-0	A Webber
624	11002-0	MOSSY BELL (P Gwyn) R Holder 4-10-0	N Coleman 4
625	0004/01	RIGHT REGENT (D) (S Hindle) M Pipe 6-10-0 (4 ex)	P Leach
630	04002-0	SONADA (J Pyke) R Hartop 5-10-0	P Dever
631	130-0	RYEDALE (R Wright) P Cundell 7-10-0	Michael Rimmer 7

1983: Lawnswood Miss 5-11-4 J J O'Neill (7-1) R Hollinshead 14 ran.

5-2 Right Regent, 7-2 Spaced Out, 4 I Haventalight, 7 Lawnswood Miss, 8 Hopeful Saint, 12 Fearless Seal, Miss Willie and Shirley Grove, 16 others.

FORM: IHAVENTALIGHT, (11-7) 8th to Goosey Gander (10-0), last year (11-0) 6½l 3rd to Aonoch (11-0) at Chepstow (2m hdle, £11,132, good to soft, Mar 10, 10 ran). [illegible]

Humbler fare for Horgan

It was a case of the morning after the night before at the Newmarket December Sales yesterday as humbler fare were paraded in front of a sparse attendance (Simon O'Loughlin writes).

John Horgan, an Irish breeder, made headlines the previous day as the new owner of Puget Sound, a 520,000 guineas purchase. But he had only to go to 44,000 guineas yesterday – one of the day's top prices – to secure Red Roman, a four-year-old Solinus mare from Cloughran Stud

Among the skirmishers yesterday was Mrs Lupe Vieites, a Madrid-based agent. Mrs Vieites bought 14 foals last week and yesterday she added a dozen mares and horses out of training.

Mrs Vieites is involved in a new auctioneering firm in Spain where racing is set for a boost. "Prize money is going up by 50 per cent next year and a new racecourse is opening in Marbella within the next two years," she said. Mrs Vieites is also the breeder of Mintage, winner of more than $200,000 in the US.

Uttoxeter results

GOING: Good to Soft

12.45 (2m ch) 1, SMILING CAVALIER (Angus Madwar, 10-1); 2, Dee Park (M Caswell, 40-1); 3, Tiaraces (G Williams, 7-2). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Sallys Carouselle (bd), 4 Crack A Joke (f), 33 All Bright (5th), Jesters Night (4th), 50 Nobleu (f). 8 ran. 1½l, ¾l, 15l, 8l. A Madwar at Newmarket. TOTE: £14.40; £1.40, £3.20, £1.10. DF: £2.40 (winner or second with any horse). CSF: £203.15.

1.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, RUSSIAN SALAD (R Hyett, 11-2); 2, High Barn (R Crank, 10-1); 3, Light Sentence (G Williams, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Lord Charles (f), 8 Red Report (f), 10 Blackbooah (f), 12 Looking for Gold (4th), 16 Porto Louise (5th), Roche Girl, 20 Bugatti (pu) 33 Infinite Star, River Warrior (6th), 50 Hengchow. 13 ran. NR: The Knife. 1½l, 3l, 4l, 5l. F Jordan at Leominster. TOTE: £12.00; £2.80, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £54.90. CSF: £56.11. Tricast: £316.56. Winner bought in for 1,900 guineas.

1.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, STAND BACK (R Lamb, 8-1); 2, Aldro (S J O'Neill, 3-1); 3, Bucksome (R Crank, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Gemelek, 9-4 Ballyross (pu), 7 One Armed Bandit (f). 6 ran. 1½l, 4l, 30l. W A Stepenson at Bishop Auckland. TOTE: £5.40; £2.50, £2.60, £16.00. CSF: £31.15.

2.15 (3m 2f ch) 1, INKLING (P Tuck, 2-1 fav); 2, Northern Bay (G Williams, 9-2); 3, Covent Garden (S J O'Neill, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Tullamarine (5th), 8 Gonzo (pu), 16 Hill Green (4th), 20 Oulert Hill (pu), 25 Gold Epee, Something Special (ur), 33 Gandouge Lane, 66 Cambro Boy (pu), Chalford Hill (6th). 12 ran. 1l, 10l, 8l, 5l, 10l. H Wharton at Wetherby. TOTE: £2.80; £1.70, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £7.40. CSF: £11.84.

2.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, WORLING-PEARL (K Doolan, 4-1); 2, Majestic Lad (P A Charlton, 11-4); 3, Quiet Fall (R O'Leary, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Lucietas (4th), 8 Mariners Dream (6th), Shepherds Hymn, 12 Secret Walk, 16 Cluedo, 33 Solitario (5th), Huyton Boy, Karuba (pu), Micky Fox (pu), Stockaign, Yafelcari (pu), Val's Pride (pu). 15 ran. NR: Lawnswood Avenger. 1½l, 25l, 10l, 4l, dist. E J Alston at Preston. TOTE: £5.40; £1.80, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £12.00. CSF: £17.82.

3.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, TRY TO REMEMBER (H Davies, 5-1); 2, Our White Hart (R Chapman, 8-1); 3, Clinker (Mr M Bosley, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav High Renown, 7 Wordsworth (4th), 8 Incense, Regal Express (6th), 16 Gennaro, 20 Captain Pry, 25 Great Shadow (f), Bryms (6th). 11 ran. NR: Woolcowers. 8l, ¾l, 3l, 12l, 3l. R J Holder at Bristol. TOTE: £4.80; £1.60, £2.50, £3.20. DF: £11.70. CSF: £22.66. Tricast: £142.82.
PLACEPOT: £109.60.

Taunton

Going: Soft

12.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, TINKERSFIELD (G McCourt, 25-1); 2, Panto Prince (B Powell, 7-1); 3, My Aisling (P Leach, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 8-11 fav Hard Line (ro), 12 Brave Words, Stock Hill Lad, 25 Hell's Prince, Wot No Seal, 33 Come On Gracie (4th), Laurenbel (5th), Record Red, 50 Hot Handed (6th) Mr Bennington (pu). Revenged, Maintown, Rose Red City. 16 ran. NR: Golden Home. 8l, 6l, 2l, ¾l, 5l. J Old at Bristol. TOTE: £50.80; £4.80, £1.60, £2.80. DF: £50.60. CSF: £199.89.

1.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, SOME MOOR (S Earle, 16-1); 2, Ar Cadet (S Smith Eccles, 4-1); 3, Good Investment (George Knight, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Pampered Gipsy (6th), 3 Romany Lucy, 4 Jimmy Boy (4th), 12 Remedy, 25 Oliver Goldsmith, Stolford, 33 Thomas A Becket (pu) 50 Laughter Lines (5th), Portadore (pu), Ragstone Girl (pu), Guard The Fort. 15 ran. NR: Lotus Dancer. 1½l, hd, 2½l, 6l, 12l. R Hodges at Somerton. TOTE: £9.30; £1.80, £1.80, £5.50. DF: £25.10. CSF: £78.46. No bid.

1.30 (2m 3f ch) 1, SIR KENWIN (A Webber, 6-1); 2, Lucky George (R Linley, 15-8 fav); 3, John's Present (P Richards, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 4 Fer-Kil (f) 11 Royal Manx (6th), 20 Austrian Corporal (f) Ferocious Knight, 33 Miss Alwah (f), Quite Hot (4th), 40 Captain Pat (BD) 50 Broughton Lad (5th), Double Barrel (f), His Masters Voice (f), Jimmy Flint (su). 14 ran. NR: Akram. 1½l, 5l, 20l, 15l, 2½l. R Armytage, at East Ilsley. TOTE: £6.50; £1.30, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £6.80. CSF: £17.25.

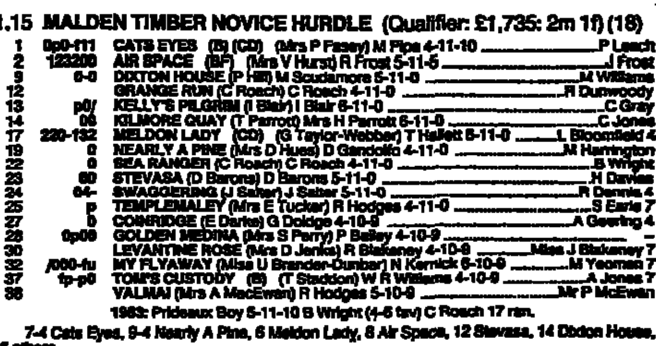
2.0 (2m 3f hdle) 1, REDGRAVE ROSE (P Richards 14-1); 2, Coral Delight (Mr A J Wilson 10-1); 3, Stars And Stripes (J Frost 11-10 fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Mearlin (4th), 8 Yellow Iris, 10 Deep Coach, 16 Walnut Way (5th) 20 Princess May, Fordes Free, 33 Rushs Magic (6th), 50 Easter Rose (P.U.) Friday Jane (P.U.), Bic Roller, Funny Madam, Go Penta, Nearly A Tango, Outwood Lass, Waveney Wish. 18 ran. ½l, 12l, 4l, 4l, 3l. K Bishop at Bridgwater. TOTE: £15.90; £2.40, £2.40, £1.60. DF £163.40. CSF £142.37.

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, RUN AND SKIP (S Morshead 7-2); 2, Veleso (S Smith Eccles 7-2); 3, Fire Drill (P Richards 9-1). ALSO RAN: 8-11 fav Dr Pepper (f), 40 Gold Racer (f). 5 ran. 3l, 15l. J Spearing at Alcester. Tote: £4.60, £1.50, £2.30. DF £2.50. CSF £14.86.

3.0 (2m 3f hdle) 1, BICKLEIGH BRIDGE (L Harvey 33-1); 2, Mendelesk (A Price 8-1); 3, Wild Corn (Miss H Chard 12-1); 4, Rostra (M Armytage 7-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 FAV Barrera Lad, 5 Cawarra Lad, 8 Epryane, 13-2 Fionadoir (5th), 12 Haven Air, 16 Tommy Tudor, 20 Cornish Granite, Law Bench, 25 Keep Sauntering (6th), Town Special, 33 Sharajen (P.U.), Glasgow Central, Courting Boy, Rachel Street, Rainbow Springs. 20 ran. 1l, ½l, 2½l, 12l, 1l. J Roberts at Tiverton. TOTE: £52.60; £5.20, £2.00, £1.80, £2.50. DF £745.70. CSF £285.98. Tricast: £3,075.15.
PLACEPOT: £30.55.

DEVON & EXETER

GOING: heavy



12.45 SPARROW HAWK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HURDLE (£606: 2m 1f) (18 runners)

2	4/4	ANNESLEY (Mrs M Musters) N Gaselee 5-11-0	A Adams
5		CAPPAGH CLEUGH (P Sanders) P Sanders 10-11-0	C Hopwood
7	000	CLEAVILL POINT (B) (D Purdie) N Mitchell 5-11-0	M Palmer
8	340	DERRYINVER (G Hamlyn-White) R Frost 4-11-0	D Wonnacott
10	f2300/	FLYING OFFICER (A Sheldrake) M Pipe 7-11-0	N Fearn
13	32p4-	HENRY BELL (Miss A Colless) K Bailey 6-11-0	S Edwards
15		MISTER PRELUDE (A Newcombe) C Hill 4-11-0	—
17	00	MY TARDET (A Thorne) G Balding 5-11-0	S Gilmour
19	2-	NORTHERN BEAU (Mrs E Hutchinson) I Dudgeon 4-11-0	S McDonald
21		POLDRUNIE (J Salter) J Salter 7-11-0	—
23	00-	REGAL SYMPHONY (P Ferrari) B Venn 4-11-0	C Bourne
25		SAILOR'S DANCE (M Ritzenberg) F Winter 4-11-0	J Duggan
33		MO STOREEN (K Dunn) K Dunn 4-10-9	C Cox
34	0/p	ROSINA COPPER (D Tucker) D Tucker 7-10-9	A Morgan
35	u	SAFFRON POSER (R Hodges) R Hodges 4-10-9	S Earle
36		TAW CROSSING (C Hill) C Hill 4-10-9	—
38	0-400	WINNING BIRTHDAY (B) (Mrs M Gibbs) W G Turner 4-10-9	Jessica Turner
39	0	WOOD POPPY (A Miedziak) R Shepherd 4-10-9	D Wells

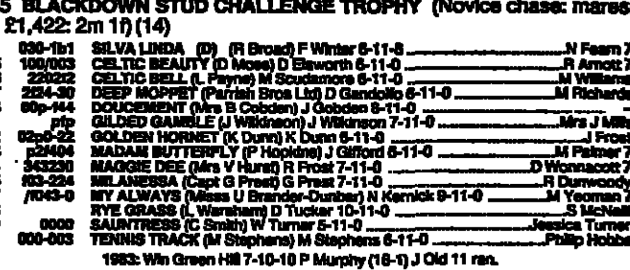
1983: Fionnadoir 5-11-0 Mr C Brooks (11-10 fav) F Winter 18 ran.

13-8 Sailor's Dance, 7-2 Annesley, 5 Northern Beau, 6 Flying Officer, 8 Henry Bell, 12 Derryinver, 14 My Tardet, 16 others.

Devon selections

By Mandarin

1.45 Annesley, 1.15 Cats Eyes, 1.45 Silva Linda, 2.15 I Wonder When, 2.45 Memberson, 3.15 Allied Newcastle.



1.15 MALDEN TIMBER NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,735: 2m 1f) (18)

1	0p0-f11	CATS EYES (B) (CD) (Mrs P Fasey) M Pipe 4-11-10	P Leach
2	123200	AIR SPACE (BF) (Mrs V Hurst) R Frost 5-11-5	J Frost
9	0-0	DIXTON HOUSE (P Hill) M Scudamore 5-11-0	M Williams
12		GRANGE RUN (C Roach) C Roach 4-11-0	R Dunwoody
13	p0/	KELLY'S PILGRIM (I Blair) I Blair 6-11-0	C Gray
14	00	KILMORE QUAY (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 6-11-0	C Jones
17	220-132	MELDON LADY (CD) (G Taylor-Webber) T Hallett 5-11-0	L Bloomfield 4
19	0	NEARLY A PINE (Mrs D Hues) D Gandolfo 4-11-0	M Harrington
22	0	SEA RANGER (C Roach) C Roach 4-11-0	B Wright
23	00	STEVASA (D Barons) D Barons 5-11-0	H Davies
24	04-	SWAGGERING (J Salter) J Salter 5-11-0	R Dennis 4
25	p	TEMPLEMALEY (Mrs E Tucker) R Hodges 4-11-0	S Earle 7
27	0	CONRIDGE (E Darke) G Doidge 4-10-9	A Gearing 4
28	0p00	GOLDEN MEDINA (Mrs S Perry) P Bailey 4-10-9	—
30		LEVANTINE ROSE (Mrs D Jenks) R Blakeney 4-10-9	Miss J Blakeney 7
32	/000-fu	MY FLYAWAY (Miss U Brander-Dunbar) N Kernick 6-10-9	M Yeoman 7
37	fp-p0	TOM'S CUSTODY (B) (T Staddon) W R Williams 4-10-9	A Jones 7
38		VALMAI (Mrs A MacEwan) R Hodges 5-10-9	Mr P McEwan

1983: Prideaux Boy 5-11-10 B Wright (4-6 fav) C Roach 17 ran.

7-4 Cats Eyes, 9-4 Nearly A Pine, 6 Meldon Lady, 8 Air Space, 12 Stevasa, 14 Dixton House, 16 others.

1.45 BLACKDOWN STUD CHALLENGE TROPHY (Novice chase: mares: £1,422: 2m 1f) (14)

1	030-1b1	SILVA LINDA (D) (R Broad) F Winter 6-11-8	N Fearn 7
5	100/003	CELTIC BEAUTY (D Moss) D Elsworth 6-11-0	R Arnott 7
6	220212	CELTIC BELL (L Payne) M Scudamore 6-11-0	M Williams
7	2234-30	DEEP MOPPET (Parrish Bros Ltd) D Gandolfo 6-11-0	M Richards
8	60p-144	DOUCEMENT (Mrs B Cobden) J Cobden 8-11-0	—
11	pfp	GILDED GAMBLE (J Wilkinson) J Wilkinson 7-11-0	Mrs J Mills
12	02p0-22	GOLDEN HORNET (K Dunn) K Dunn 6-11-0	J Frost
13	p2f404	MADAM BUTTERFLY (P Hopkins) J Gifford 6-11-0	M Palmer 7
14	343230	MAGGIE DEE (Mrs V Hurst) R Frost 7-11-0	D Wonnacott 7
15	f03-224	MILANESSA (Capt G Prest) G Prest 7-11-0	R Dunwoody
17	/f043-0	MY ALWAYS (Miss U Brander-Dunbar) N Kernick 9-11-0	M Yeoman 7
18		RYE GRASS (L Wareham) D Tucker 10-11-0	S McNeill
19	0000	SAUNTRESS (C Smith) W Turner 5-11-0	Jessica Turner
21	000-003	TENNIS TRACK (M Stephens) M Stephens 6-11-0	Philip Hobbs

1983: Win Green Hill 7-10-10 P Murphy (16-1) J Old 11 ran.

7-4 Silva Linda, 3 Celtic Bell, 9-2 Deep Moppet, 7 Celtic Beauty, 8 Golden Hornet, 10 Milanessa, 12 Maggie Dee, 16 others.

2.15 BUZZARD NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (3-y-o: £416: 2m 1f) (12)

1	b021f	I WONDER WHEN (B) (CD) (A Hunt) L Kennard 11-0	B Powell
2	0	BATTLE MASTER (A Newcombe) C Hill 10-7	Philip Hobbs
3	0b0	ESKER HOUSE (B Wills) D Tucker 10-7	S McNeill
5	00	NICELY NICELY (B) (M Batrick) W G Turner 10-7	Jessica Turner 7
6	0	ALMOST CAUGHT (V Cox) P Burgoyne 10-2	J Nolan
7	0p	APRON BLUE (E McGuinness) M O'Halloran 10-2	M O'Halloran
8	pf	ARDENT ROSE (B Llewellyn) D Burchell 10-2	C Seward
9	000	BASSETT GIRL (J Trant) T Bulgin 10-2	R Arnott 7
10	403	CHASE THE CLOUDS (W Williams) W R Williams 10-2	A Jones 7
12	000	LYDACOTT MOON (D Gillard) D Gillard 10-2	R Millman
14	0000	SPRINGS TO MIND (B) (G Massey) W G Morris 10-2	W Morris 4
15		THISTLEFIELD (C Hill) C Hill 10-2	M Ayliffe

1983: Not So Dear 4-10-7 R Goldstein (5-1) A Davison 17 ran.

2 I Wonder When, 3 Battle Master, 4 Chase The Clouds, 6 Bassett Girl, 7 Almost Caught, 10 Nicely Nicely, 14 others.

2.45 TWYSDEN CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £1,322: 3m 1f) (12)

1	p30p-03	GIDDYCAN (CD) (H Irish) K Bishop 8-12-0	P Richards
4	11f420/	GLEN BERG (B) (CD) (C Pilkington) F Walwyn 9-11-7	K Mooney
7	402-0f0	VIRGIN SOLDIER (Mrs J Dibben) J Old 8-11-0	H Davies
9	u040-31	MEMBERSON (CD) (P Dufosee) P Dufosee 6-10-5	R Dunwoody
11	f043-43	NORTH LANE (G Bisgrove Ltd) K Bishop 7-10-0	B Powell
12	030-034	CHEADLE GREEN (BF) (K Dunn) K Dunn 7-10-0	J Frost
13	upp-340	BAULKING BYWAY (Miss R Harper) Miss R Harper 9-10-0	Miss R Harper
14	2p2p-4p	FORT COURAGE (M Swale) T Hallett 9-10-0	L Bloomfield 4
16	4f0u-f	BAY FOREST (E Clarke) Mrs E Kennard 6-10-0	S McNeill
17	p0fp-4p	FINE LINE (C Dodson) J Wright 7-10-0	M Illems
18	24-pfp0	GUINNER (P West) P West 8-10-0	C Gray
19	f0-041	ROYSCAR (J Chanin) J Chanin 7-10-0 (7 ex)	R Millman

1983: Giddycan 7-10-6 P Richards (8-1) K Bishop 15 ran.

3 Memberson, 4 Virgin Soldier, 5 Glen Berg, 6 Giddycan, 8 Cheadle Green, 10 Royscar, 12 Fort Courage, 16 Baulking Byway, 20 others.



3.15 KENTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£982: 2m 1f) (18)

3	00433-p	INDIANA DARE (Mrs D Cousins) J Jenkins 8-11-12	H Jenkins 7
4	00-040f	SHOEMENDER (P Rodford) P Rodford 7-11-5	C Gray
7	2/44-00	SUPPER'S READY (B) (Mrs M Smith) W G Morris 6-11-4	W Morris 4
8	4-00032	SARATINO (S Hunt) L Kennard 4-11-4	B Powell
9	/00200-	MARINE (CD) (S Freeman) G Balding 6-11-4	B Reilly
10	3321-00	GOLDEN BRIGADIER (B) (L Turland) J Old 6-11-3	H Davies
11	123200	CELTIC STORY (T Sedgwick) J Jenkins 4-11-3	Mr S Sherwood
15	p02-000	HEVER (B) (CD) (Mrs P Fasey) M Pipe 9-10-13	R Atkins
16	f0/0p0-	CONS PAL (F Faulkner) D Windle 6-10-11	J Wathen 7
17	30u0-40	REPUBLICAN (B) (M Kimmins) F Walwyn 6-10-11	K Mooney
19	f0321-3	PRINCESS ISIS (CD) (C McClintock) B Forsey 6-10-7	M Nuttall 4
20	210-130	ALLIED NEWCASTLE (BF) (Allied MFG Co) D Elsworth 4-10-7	R Arnott 7
21	4003-00	GYPSEY LEA (Mrs S Wakely) P Wakely 6-10-6	P Stone 7
23	1/003-0	GOLD TYCOON (C Woolford) J Spearing 5-10-4	A Webb
26	1/0-	TUJUCA (W Reed) W Reed 5-10-2	—
28	1000f-0	IDSON LASS (J Payne) J Payne 6-10-2	C Cox 7
29	30pfp-4	BOLT THE GATE (CD) (D Williams) D Williams 5-10-1	J Frost
30	213222-	CHALKIES PET (G Wilkins) D Wintle 4-10-0	Mr J Wintle 7

1983: no corresponding race.

4 Saratino, 5 Allied Newcastle, 6 Gold Tycoon, 7 Princess Isis, 8 Celtic Story, Golden Brigadier, 10 Republican, 12 Marine, 14 Indiana Dare, Hever, 16 others.

Today's course specialists

CHELTENHAM

TRAINERS F Winter 47 winners from 221 runners: 21.3%; D Elsworth 12 from 66: 18.2%; F Walwyn 27 from 155: 17.4%; JOCKEYS R Earnshaw 7 winners from 27 rides 25.9%; J Francome 44 from 221: 19.9%; R Linley 18 from 93: 19.4%; S Morshead 13 from 124: 10.5%; P Barton 3 from 31: 9.9%; A Webber 7 from 81: 8.6%; P Scudamore 14 from 284: 6.9%

DEVON & EXETER

TRAINERS F Winter 14 winners from 28 runners: 58.80%; D Elsworth 12 from 37: 32.4%; L Kennard 44 from 210: 21.0% JOCKEYS H Davies 20 winners from 32 rides: 24.4%; P Leach 25 from 140: 17.9%; M Williams 13 from 82: 15.8%; Philip Hobbs 12 from 125: 9.6%; J Williams 12 from 139: 8.6%; George Knight 8 from 120: 6.7%

Court of Appeal — Law Report December 7 1984 — Court of Appeal

Turban ban is racial discrimination

Gurmit Singh Kambo and Others v Vaulkhard

Before Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Stephen Brown

[Judgment delivered November 26]

The licensee of a public house who gave his doormen strict instructions to refuse entry to persons whom they thought might cause trouble or be associated with persons who had caused trouble within the premises was not guilty of racial discrimination when his doormen refused entry to three Indians, an Iranian and a Pakistani, and there was no compelling evidence why the county court judge should have drawn the inference that the doormen refused admission on racial grounds.

The licensee was, however, guilty of racial discrimination when he refused entry to a plaintiff who was wearing a turban because customers with hats on were not allowed in the premises, but, although the plaintiff was entitled to a declaration the defendant was not liable to pay damages because he was protected by section 57(3) of the Race Relations Act 1976.

The Court of Appeal dismissed appeals by five plaintiffs from a decision of Judge Percy sitting with an assessor at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court, who dismissed their claims against Mr Nigel D. T. Vaulkhard, licensee of the 42nd Street public house, Hood Street, Newcastle, for an injunction restraining him from unlawfully discriminating against them when offering facilities or services to the public, for declarations that the defendant's actions were unlawful and contrary to section 20 (1) (a) of the Race Relations Act 1976 and for damages.

The court allowed a cross-appeal by the defendant against an award of £100 damages to the third plaintiff, Dr Manjit Singh, who had been excluded from the defendant's premises because he was wearing a turban, on the ground that although the defendant had unlawfully discriminated against Dr Manjit Singh, he was protected by section 57(3) of the Race Relations Act 1976 from having to pay damages.

Section 57(3) of the 1976 Act provides: "As respects an unlawful act of discrimination... no award of damages shall be made if the respondent proves that the requirement or condition in question was not applied with the intention of treating the claimant unfavourably on racial grounds".

Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr Nigel Gilmour for the plaintiffs; Mr Charles Morgan for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS said that the defendant had been in the licensed trade in Newcastle upon Tyne for some years. At common law he could serve only those customers he chose to serve and he had given instructions to his doormen to serve only customers who appeared to be over 21.

In summer 1981 he was told by his under-manager that some foreigners had been smoking cannabis on his premises and there was evidence of other undesirable activities in which coloured persons had been involved.

He gave strict instructions to his doormen to tighten up control; the doormen were given a free hand and if they were in any doubt whether a person was likely to cause trouble they were to exclude rather than admit him. In pursuance of that policy a considerable number of people were refused admission.

The first two plaintiffs, Indian bus drivers, were well-dressed men of impeccable character. They were refused entry. The first plaintiff said that the doorman told him he had been told not to let in foreigners and when asked why said that "you people have been making trouble here".

The judge concluded that those two plaintiffs were serious in thinking that they were being rejected because they were coloured but that they were wrong and that the doorman, having to make a snap decision, decided that they might be associated with people making trouble in the public house. That was a question of fact on which the judge and the assessor had to make up their minds.

His Lordship was unable to conclude that the judge, in refusing to draw the inference that the plaintiffs were being discriminated against on the ground of colour, was acting perversely.

The pattern was repeated when the fourth plaintiff, an Iranian, was refused entry on the ground that the premises were full, which it was conceded was untrue. But the judge accepted that it was another exercise of discretion by the doorman who erroneously thought that the fourth plaintiff was a man who might be associated with people who had caused trouble previously.

Their Lordships could not say he erred in the view which he took.

When the fifth and sixth plaintiffs, an Indian and a Pakistani, were told they could not go in, the doorman was asked why and he said "Well, all you lot are trouble makers". The judge found that the words "you lot" were not directed to discrimination but that the doorman thought the two plaintiffs were part of a group of coloured persons who had caused trouble.

An enormous number of people had been refused entry to the premises and because of that background and the previous experience of the defendant his Lordship was quite unpersuaded that on the basis of the way the doormen expressed themselves the court could have thought that they were refusing entry on the basis of racial discrimination rather than on the basis that they might be associated with troublemakers as the judge and the assessor found.

A plaintiff who based his appeal on perversity had a heavy burden to discharge. In the present case the evidence was not such that the judge and the assessor were compelled to draw the inference that the doormen refused admission on racial grounds. His Lordship would dismiss the appeals of the first, second, fourth, fifth and sixth plaintiffs.

The third plaintiff, Dr Manjit Singh, was refused admission by the defendant himself who said he could not go in because he was wearing a hat. The defendant did not allow anyone in with hats on. The doctor was wearing a turban.

The judge was satisfied that the reason for the defendant's decision not to admit the doctor was because he was wearing a turban and the defendant equated wearing a turban with wearing a hat and wearing a hat within his premises was likely to cause trouble.

As the law then stood Sikhs were not regarded as a racial group within the meaning of the Race Relations Act 1976 consequent upon the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Mandla v Dowell Lee* ([1983] QB 1) but the House of Lords overruled that decision ([1983] 2AC 548).

The defendant now accepted that he was guilty of indirect discrimination in pursuance of section 1(1) (b) of the 1976 Act and that Dr Manjit Singh was entitled to a declaration that the defendant had unlawfully discriminated against him.

But, by a cross-appeal the defendant submitted that the judge was not entitled to assess damages on the assumption that the House of Lords might overrule the Court of Appeal in *Mandla*, which he had done in the sum of £100, because the defendant was protected by section 57(3) of the 1976 Act.

It appeared to his Lordship that the requirement not to wear a turban was not applied with the intention of treating the doctor unfavourably on racial grounds. That being so he concluded that the defendant was entitled to the protection provided by section 57(3) and it was not a case in which it was appropriate to make an award of damages.

Lord Justice Stephen Brown delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Cuff Roberts North Kirk, Liverpool; R. & R. F. Kidd & Spoor, Whitley Bay.

Cross-examination allowed

Chilton and Another v Saga Holidays plc

Where a small claim was pursued in the county court and dealt with under the arbitration procedure provided by Order 19, rule 5 of the County Court Rules 1981, a party to the arbitration was entitled to cross-examine the other party or his witnesses notwithstanding that one of the parties was unrepresented. Although the county court rules provided that the arbitration proceedings should be conducted informally the rules of natural justice should be observed.

The Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd) so stated on December 3 allowing an appeal by the defendant from the dismissal by Judge Turner at Chelmsford County Court of his appeal against the registrar's refusal to allow his solicitor's cross-examination of the plaintiff.

Driver not covered by duty to insure

Cooper v Motor Insurers' Bureau

Before Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce, Lord Justice Dillon and Mr Justice Ewbank

[Judgment delivered November 27]

The insurance obligations under sections 143 and 145 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 were not intended to insure against death or personal injury the person actually using the vehicle but were only intended to cover the user's liability to others.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal pursued on behalf of the plaintiff, Mr Clifford George Cooper (deceased) by the administrator of his estate, from Mr Barry Chedlow, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, (*The Times* July 19, 1982; [1983] 1 WLR 592), dismissed the plaintiff's claim against the defendants, the Motor Insurers' Bureau, for a declaration or order that the defendants were liable, pursuant to clause 2 of the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement of November 22, 1972, to satisfy a High Court judgment previously obtained by the plaintiff against Mr Brendon Killacky, for damages of £213,207 for personal injuries, loss and damage sustained by the plaintiff when road testing Mr Killacky's motor cycle, due to his negligence in failing to warn the plaintiff that the brakes of the motor cycle were defective. Mr Killacky had not been insured against third-party risks as required by section 143(1) of the Act and was himself unable to satisfy the judgment.

Section 145(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 provides: "... the policy- (a) must insure such ... persons ... as may be specified in the policy in respect of any liability which may be incurred by ... them in respect of the death of or bodily injury to any person caused by, or arising out of, the use of the vehicle on a road ..."

Mr Michael Wright, QC and Mr Stephen Waine for the plaintiff, Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr Andrew Prynne for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE said that is was clear that the obligation imposed on the insured by section 143(1) was to take out a policy covering him in respect of third party risks which, whatever ambiguity that phrase might have, did not include the actual driver of the vehicle at the time when the use of the vehicle gave rise to the damage.

Although taken by itself the phrase "any person" in section 145(3) (a) was unrestricted, as soon as the obligation imposed by section 143 was considered it necessarily followed that the phrase must have been intended to be restricted in scope to exclude the driver of the vehicle at the time of the risk.

Lord Justice Dillon and Mr Justice Ewbank agreed.

Solicitors: Horwood & James, Aylesbury; L. Bingham & Co.

Status of voluntary liquidator

In re John Bateson & Co Ltd

A voluntary liquidator, as opposed to a compulsory liquidator, was not an officer of the court, Mr Justice Harman said in the Chancery Division on November 29.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it was sought to apply by analogy the rule in bankruptcy in *Ex parte James* ((1874) LR 9 Ch App 609), concerning standards imposed on officers of the court, to the case of a company in voluntary liquidation. He rejected the argument that the principle had application to the present case on the ground that not all the conditions necessary for its application had been fulfilled.

Had he not done so, he would have found difficulty in resisting the argument that a voluntary liquidator was not an officer of the court (however odd it might be that liquidators in compulsory and voluntary liquidations should be treated differently) in the light of *In re Sandiford (No 2)* ([1935] Ch 681) where the court considered that an executor was not a party to whom the principle could apply.

Tax stated case time limit is mandatory

Valleybright Ltd (in voluntary liquidation) v Richardson (Inspector of Taxes)

Section 56 (4) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 provided that a party requiring commissioners hearing and determining a tax appeal to state a case "shall transmit the case, when stated and signed, to the High Court, within thirty days". That provision was not merely directory but was imperative and mandatory. Strict compliance with its terms was essential and any failure to comply had the consequence that the High Court had no jurisdiction to hear that party's appeal.

Mr Justice Scott so held in the Chancery Division on November 29 when deciding a preliminary point in relation to a corporation tax appeal from a determination of general commissioners by Valleybright Ltd (in voluntary liquidation), a Rossminster Group company. That company's admitted failure to transmit the case stated to the High Court within the 30-day period deprived the court of jurisdiction to entertain the appeal.

Trial to be proper as well as fair

Regina v Hickman

Where the prosecution decided not to call certain witnesses, although it was open to the judge to call those witnesses himself in the interests of justice, he had a duty to ensure that the trial was conducted properly as well as fairly.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Michael Davies and Mr Justice Simon Brown) so held on November 29, dismissing an appeal by Roy John Hickman against his conviction on November 11, 1983 at Dudley Crown Court (Judge Stuart-White and a jury) of reckless driving.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that at the defendant's first trial the prosecution had called several police officers, all of whom were cross-examined at great length by the defendant, who had appeared in person. The jury failed to agree.

At the re-trail, the prosecution decided, having called one witness who was again subjected to a protracted cross-examination, not to call any more witnesses.

The question was whether the judge should have interfered with the prosecution's decision. Although the principles in *R v Oliva* ((1965) 49 Cr App R) still obtained, it was the judge's duty to ensure that a proper as well as a fair trial could be conducted, and he was well within his discretion to refuse to intervene.

No right to be heard

Regina v Bristol City Council, Ex parte Pearce and Another

In the exercise of its licensing jurisdiction under paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, which dealt with street trading consents, a district council was not obliged to hear oral representations from the applicants nor to give reasons for its decisions. An established street trader within paragraph 7 did not have an existing legal right which might be forfeited as a result of the council's decision nor did he have a legitimate expectation that the consent would be granted. The council was entitled to decide that there were too many mobile traders and to refuse consents to some.

Mr Justice Glidewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on November 26 dismissing an application for judicial review.

HIS LORDSHIP went on to say that as a matter of general principle a council considering applications for consents which received and entertained letters of objection, apart from its own officers or the police, was under a duty to tell the applicants of the content of the objections and to give them some opportunity to comment.

More Law Reports, p26

Law Report December 7 1984

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Proof of knowledge of absence of licence required

Westminster City Council v Croyalgrange Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment delivered November 29]

Where a person was charged with knowingly permitting premises to be used as a sex establishment without the grant of a licence by the local authority, contrary to paragraph 20(1) (*a*) of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, it was necessary for the prosecutor to prove that the accused knew not only that the premises were being used as a sex establishment but also that no licence had been granted.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Westminster City Council from the dismissal by Mr Ronald Bartle, Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate, on December 29, 1983, of (1) two informations alleging that Croyalgrange Ltd had on two days in February 1983 knowingly permitted the use of premises at 4 Peter Street, Soho, as a sex establishment without the grant of a licence by the council under Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act; and (2) two informations alleging against Mr Charles Grech that the offence alleged against Croyalgrange Ltd had been committed with his connivance, he being a director of the company, whereby he as well as the company was guilty of the offence.

Paragraph 6(1) of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act provides that no person shall use any premises as a sex establishment except in accordance with the terms of a licence granted by the appropriate authority.

Paragraph 20 (1) provides: "A person who – (*a*) knowingly uses, or knowingly causes or permits the use of, any premises... contrary to paragraph 6... or... (*c*) being the holder of a licence under this Schedule, without reasonable excuse knowingly contravenes, or without reasonable excuse knowingly permits the contravention of a term, condition or restriction specified in the licence... shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr John Samuels, QC and Mr Roger McCarthy for the council; Mr John W Rogers, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the court had to answer the question whether, in order to constitute an offence contrary to section 2 of and paragraphs 6 (1) and 20 (1) (*a*) of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act, it was necessary for the prosecution to prove that the defendant knew that the use made of the premises, or the use which he had caused or permitted, was other than under and in accordance with the terms of a licence granted by the local authority under Schedule 3.

The council had submitted that the word "knowingly" in paragraph 20 (1) (*a*) was directed only to the fact of the premises' use as a sex establishment, and that it was not necessary for it to prove knowledge of the absence of a licence.

It had been argued that Parliament's purpose in including the requirement of knowledge had been to prevent persons being held responsible for the unauthorized acts of agents whose activities, unbeknown to the principle, amounted to use of the premises as a sex establishment.

In his Lordship's judgment, in view of the fact that the word "knowingly" attached not only to the words "causes or permits the use" but also to "uses", on an ordinary construction of paragraphs 20 (1) (*a*) and 6 (1) he would expect the word "knowingly" to require the prosecution to prove knowledge in respect of all the elements in the offence. If that were correct it would be necessary for the prosecution to prove not only knowledge of the use but also knowledge of the lack of the licence.

As a matter of first impression his Lordship would expect that construction; it was not offensive that Parliament should have intended that a person who honestly believed that a licence had been granted should not be guilty of an offence.

Paragraph 6(1) was so drawn that it provided that premises should not be used as a sex establishment except in accordance with a licence. The council had contended that the *actus reus* of the offence was therefore the use, or the permitting of the use, as a sex establishment, subject to the engrafted exception where a licence had been granted, and had referred the court to cases concerning offences drawn in that form in which it had been held that the burden was on the defendant to prove the existence of the exception; not on the prosecutor to prove its absence.

However, this case did not concern the burden of proof applicable to this offence but whether the requirement of knowledge applied to the absence of the licence, and so the burden of proof cases were not of assistance.

Neither did *Brooks v Mason* ([1902] 2 KB 743) assist. There it had been held that since statute required a vessel to be sealed it was not necessary for the prosecutor to prove the defendant knew it was not sealed.

There was nothing in the 1982 Act to persuade his Lordship that he should not apply the ordinary principles of construction. It was necessary for the prosecutor to prove that the defendant knew that no licence had been obtained, although, as Mr Justice Devlin had said in *Roper v Taylor's Central Garages (Exeter) Ltd* ([1951] 2 TLR 284), such knowledge could often be proved by showing that a defendant had deliberately shut his eyes to the facts and had failed to make reasonable inquiries.

Mr Justice McCullough delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Terence F. Neville; Irwin Shaw.

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Motoring by Peter Waymark

Rescue for refined automatic transmission

The news that the Dutch Government has decided to rescue the Van Doorne Transmissie company may turn out to have much more significance for motorists in Britain than might at first seem apparent.

It is a tangled story, at the heart of which is an automatic transmission for cars called CVT which could bring about a revolution in motoring habits – if it ever gets into production.

The CVT, continuously variable transmission, is a development of the belt-driven gearless automatic pioneered for Daf cars. Since Daf's absorption by Volvo of Sweden it has been used in successive small Volvo models, including the current 300 series.

Similar in principle, the CVT employs a more durable steel, instead of a rubber, belt and has several other refinements. It is particularly suited to small cars, many of which do not offer an automatic option; and claims to have eliminated the main drawbacks of conventional automatics, heavier fuel consumption and inferior performance.

Van Doorne Transmissie, a joint venture to exploit CVT involving the Dutch Government, Volvo, Fiat and the American transmissions manufacturer, Borg-Warner, was formed in 1979. Two years later Borg-Warner was so enthusiastic about progress that it forecast the CVT making manual gearboxes "virtually obsolete".

Nothing much more was heard until October 1983, when Fiat announced a CVT version of its Uno model, to be called the Unomatic, with production due to start in the middle of 1984. It also said that the transmission would be used on other Fiat and on Lancia models later.

Fiat had tried the CVT on the Ritmo (Strada) range with encouraging results and introduced further modifications for what it termed "the current definitive version". Performance was as good as on cars with manual gearboxes, with pick-up even better; and the traditional fuel consumption penalty had also disappeared.

Meanwhile, another big manufacturer, unconnected with Van Doorne Transmissie, was becoming interested: Ford. The Fiesta, Ford's smallest model, had never had an automatic and was an obvious candidate. Ford planned to make the transmission, which it rechristened the CTX, at its factory in Bordeaux with Van Doorne supplying the belts and pulleys.

All was set for the Fiesta CTX to appear this autumn. A further twist was that Fiat, though still committed to the Unomatic, started to have doubts about the ability of its Italian home market to provide sufficient demand to justify a separate CVT manufacturing facility.

Italian motorists do not like automatic cars, preferring to make gear changes. The take-up of automatics in Italy is 1.5 to 2 per cent of new cars sold. Fiat therefore approached Ford to see whether Bordeaux could make transmissions for the Uno.

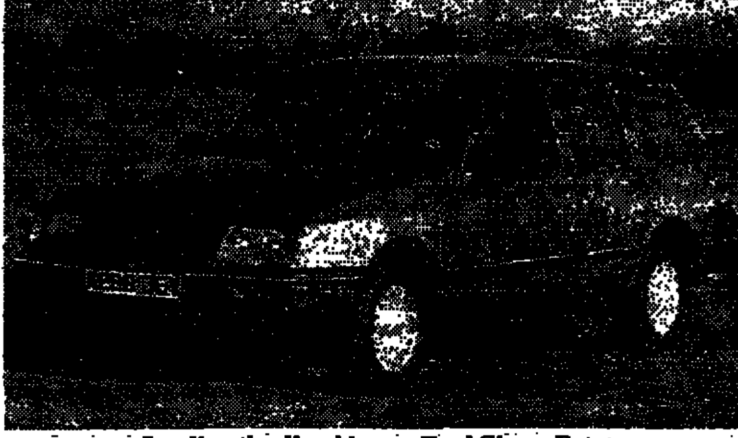
The number of cars sold in Britain with automatics is higher than in Italy, but still only about 10 per cent, a proportion that has remained almost constant for more than a decade. The reasons for this lack of enthusiasm include inferior performance and fuel consumption, both of which CVT seems to have cured, and higher cost.

It is too soon to speculate on what CVT might add to a car's price, though it is conceded that there will be a penalty. It will depend partly on how many CVT units are made; but since high volume would be helped by a low price, the CVT might be locked in a vicious circle.

Neither the Unomatic nor Fiesta CTX appeared as scheduled, provoking jibes about continuously variable launch dates. It emerged that Van Doorne was in financial trouble; and there was a serious blow to the project when one of the original backers, Borg-Warner, decided to pull out.

Borg-Warner still affirmed its faith in the concept but was disappointed at the lack of customers, many other car manufacturers had been approached, and doubted its commercial viability. Van Doorne stood on the brink of bankruptcy. There were rumours of Japanese interest, but eventually the Dutch Government agreed to buy the Borg-Warner shareholding and provide a bridging loan.

A further injection of money will be needed to guarantee Van Doorne's survival but the worst may be over. Ford's latest estimate is that the Fiesta CTX may be out this time next year; Fiat is giving no promises about the Unomatic. Watch this space!



Leading the diesel boom: Ford Sierra Estate

Road Test: Sierra Diesel Estate

Though the British diesel car market is small compared with many on the Continent, it is starting to take off in a significant way. Total sales this year are expected to be about 36,000, nearly 50 per cent up on 1983 and double that of two years ago.

This rapid expansion is being led by Ford, which has more than one third of the market and makes the best-selling diesel model, the Sierra. One diesel car in five sold is a Sierra with the nearest rival, the Peugeot 305, some way behind.

It is a good time, therefore, to look at the diesel Sierra, available in saloon and estate forms and powered by a 2.3 litre unit, a Peugeot design with indirect fuel injection. As usual with diesel, the decisive advantage in fuel economy has to be weighed against inferior performance refinement.

The engine does project something of the characteristic diesel clatter during warm-up and continues to rumble and grumble at tickover and low speed. But once into its stride, that is quickly forgotten and on the open road the car cruises as happily, and with no greater assault on the ear-drums, as a similar sized petrol model.

As for performances, the figures (see panel) may look unimpressive on paper and the acceleration time is slightly worse than a Mini's. But of more value to the average driver is the ability to pull away strongly in high gear and hold its own on the motorway. The car passes both tests admirably.

On fuel consumption, the diesel's superiority is beyond doubt, particularly in town driving. A useful comparison between this model and the two-litre petrol Sierra over the objectively tested urban cycle – the diesel wins by 33.6 mpg to 26.9. My overall returns, in mixed driving with four occupants and luggage, was an excellent 40 to 43 mpg.

An aid to good consumption is the five-speed gearbox, which like all Ford transmissions is a delight to use, with well-spaced ratios and crisp, clean changes (apart from a trace of notchiness on the way down from third to second). Diesel is also cheaper than petrol, by about 10p a gallon.

Though the greatest benefit is to the high mileage company driver, rather than the private motorist, the Sierra diesel does make sense as a family car. There are times, notably when trying to overtake, when more power would be welcome; and away from city centres it can be difficult finding a garage which stocks diesel. Against this the tank is big enough (just over 13 gallons) to give a range of at least 400 miles.

The Sierra as an estate, despite Ford's decision to eschew the supposedly space-saving device of front-wheel drive, is roomy inside, with ample head and legroom for backseat passengers, and offers a generous luggage area with little intrusion from the wheelarches.

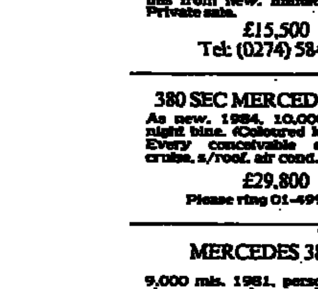
The load area can be greatly expanded by folding down the rear seat and creating a platform more than five-feet long. The rear seat has a useful 60/40 split so that the car can be used for various permutations of passengers and cargo. The tailgate comes down to floor level.

Heavy duty suspension has been fitted at the back to cope with the extra weight an estate is likely to carry. The suspension system, all independant, is a marked improvement over that of the Sierra's predecessor, the Cortina, though not as finely tuned as on some rivals.

The tendency for the car to wallow at times, and for rough surfaces to cause choppiness in the ride, is the only serious criticism of a well-designed, practical efficient vehicle.

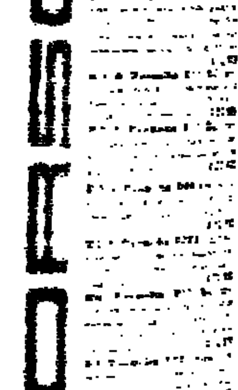
Vital statistics

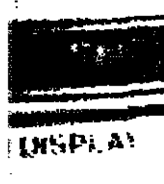
Model: Ford Sierra 2·3GL diesel estate
Price: £8,320
Engine: 2304 cc, four cylinder
Performance: maximum speed 96 mph; 0-60 mph, 18·6 secs
Official consumption: urban 33·6 mpg; 56 mph 56·5 mpg; 75 mph 42·2 mpg
Length: 14ft 9ins
Insurance: group 3

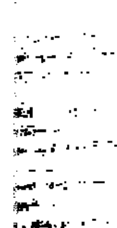


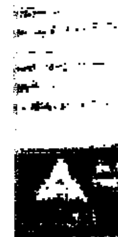




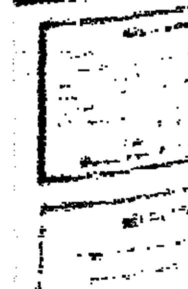


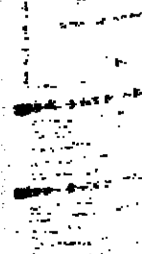


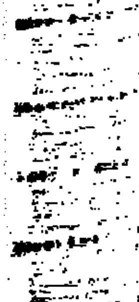












BEHOLD, THEY SAY unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now. Jeremiah 17:15

BIRTHS

AFFLECK - on December 1st in Bermuda to Lesley and Robert, a daughter Jenna Elizabeth. Sister for Katie.

ANDREWES. - On December 5th to Jill and Bill a daughter (Clemmie)

RIDDLE. On 5th December in Sevenoaks Hospital to Louise (nee Crook) and Robert - a daughter (Emma) a sister for Thomas and Helen.

BOASE On 27 November to Georgina and David - a son (Edward James)

CABLE. - On November 29, 1984, at Nairobi Hospital, to Ysabel (nee Evans) and Charles - a daughter (Sophia Charlotte)

CROWTHER on November 30th in Worcester to Julie and Philip a daughter (Harriet), a sister for Ben.

HELME. - On December 6th in Kalgoorlie, to Dorothy (nee Dromgoole) and Tim, a daughter (Genevieve Marcia) a sister for Lucy and Edward.

JONES - On November 28 to Mariann (nee Leddy) and Alan, a daughter, Jessica.

MAXWELL - on December 4, to Elaine and Ian, a daughter Jessica Constance, a sister for William and Edward.

MILLER - On November 27th to Maureen and Jo - a daughter (Olivia), a sister for James.

TANG. On December 3rd at St Mary's Hospital, London, to Susanna (nee Cheung) and David, a daughter (Victoria)

URQUHART - On December 1, to Annie (nee Griffiths) and Peter - a daughter, a sister for Katie, James and Flora.

WALKER - On December 4 at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Fiona (nee Austin) and Patrick, a daughter Olivia.

WILLIAMSON - To Elizabeth and Martin a son, Timothy Simon, on November 29 in Washington DC.

WILLIAMS - On 4 December to Raymond and Teresa (nee Tiley) a daughter, Elizabeth Charlotte.

BIRTHDAYS

MARRIAGES

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

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GURNEY - In ever loving memory of Hugh on his birthday, killed in action in France September 12, 1944. 2nd S A S Regiment.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR WILLI JONAS of 15 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW3, died on the 8th August 1984. Particulars of claims to be sent to Messrs Herbert Oppenheimer, Nathan & Vandyk, 20 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7JH on or before the 18th January 1985.

JOAN SIMON, ELIZABETH, both nee Peel. Tony Mansbridge, write H. Heuser, San Marino, 52020 Ponticino Ar Italy.

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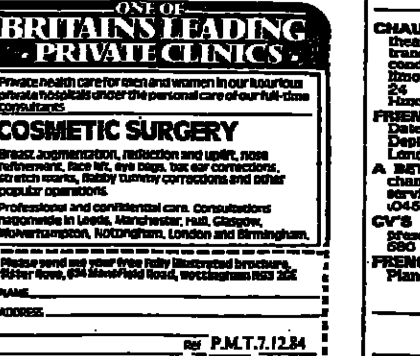
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Entertainments

also on page 29

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CAMDEN PLAZA 485 2443 (opp. Camden Town Tube). Eric Rohmer's FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50.

CHELSEA CINEMA 351 3742 Kings Road (Nearest Tube Sloane Sq). ERIC ROHMER'S FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50. Advance Booking for last perf. only. Access/Visa.

CURZON, Curzon St, W1. 499 3737. Christopher Reeve, Vanessa Redgrave in The Merchant Ivory Production of THE BOSTONIANS (PG) "Superbly made and acted" D. Tel. film at 1.15 (not Sun), 3.30, 6.00 & 8.40.

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THE ELECTRIC SCREEN. 229 3694. (191 Portobello Rd, Tubes Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill. Buses 7, 15, 23, 27). John Sayle's THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET (15) 2.15, 4.25, 7.00, 9.00.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Satyajit Ray's THE HOME AND THE WORLD (U). Daily at 3.10, 5.45, 8.25.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Marcel Carne's LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS (PG). Film: 4.10, 7.30.

EXHIBITIONS

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THE TIMES

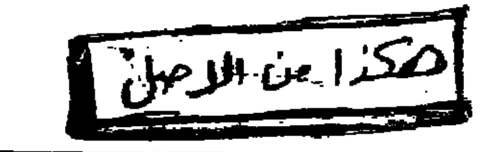
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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Selina Scott and Nick Ross. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening advice at 7.32; plus Mike Smith with the latest video and pop news; Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer report; and guest Tommy Trinder.
9.00 Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga. Lesson 16; the Standing Leg Grip.
9.10 Mastermind, introduced by Magnus Magnusson from the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. In this, the third semi-final, Nevile Cohen answers questions on the life of Isaac Newton; Katherine Heaney on the life of Queen Victoria; Rachel Leonard on the life and work of Jane Austen; and Kate Vernon-Parry on the life and work of Beatrix Potter (r) 9.40 Ceefax; 10.30 Play School (r); 10.50 Ceefax.
12.30 News After Noon with Moira Stuart and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Jim Bacon; 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).
1.00 Pebble Mill at One with guests, singer Tony Bennett, Jill Crawshaw who examines the pros and cons of shopping trips across the Channel, and Peter Seabrook in the Pebble Mill garden.
1.45 Little Misses and the Mister Men (r).
2.00 Racing from Cheltenham. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of three races - the Foodbrokers-Armour Steeplechase (2.15) the Embassy Premier Steeplechase Qualifier (2.50); and the Coral Golden Hurdle Qualifier (3.20).3.48 Regional news (not London).
3.50 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Millbank; 4.10 The Family-Ness; 4.15 Jackanory. Penelope Keith reads the story of The Princess and the Frog (r); 4.30 Benji, Zax and the Alien Prince; 4.55 Hartbeat: Tony Hart with Joanna Kirk examines construction lines underneath a picture.
5.15 Crackerjack presented by Stu Francis with guests who include the Kane Gang and Keith Harris with Orville. 5.58 Weather.
6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.
6.30 London Plus.
6.55 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry.
7.05 Blankety Blank. Les Dawson's panel consists of Stan Boarman, Henry Kelly, Bonnie Langford, Bertice Reading, Beryl Reid and MP, Cyril Smith.
7.40 What a Carry On. A compilation of clips from the successful series of Carry On films.
8.05 Bergerac. A jewel thief who happens to be a pretty woman arrives on Jersey at the time of an important jewel auction. Unbeknown to Bergerac she is only on holiday and leads the policeman on a merry dance - until a large diamond is stolen in the middle of the auction (r) (Ceefax).
9.00 News with Julia Somerville.
9.25 The Secret Servant. Part two of the three-part thriller starring Charles Dance.
10.20 Film: North Dallas Forty (1979) starring Nick Nolte. American football drama about a player who has seen better days. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (first showing on British television).
12.20 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; exercises at 6.46 and 9.20; Jan Walsh discusses perfume packaging at 7.10; pop video at 7.54; Jeni Barnett's postbag at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; best Christmas buys at 8.47; advice on holidays at Christmas at 9.06.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: Middle English. 9.48 Railways. 10.05 Machines that make work. 10.25 Producing a television programme.
10.50 Cartoon Time.
11.00 Farmhouse Kitchen. Authentic curry making advice from Priya Wickramasinghe 11.30 Crown Court. The final part of the trial of the firm of solicitors accused of a breach of trust (r).
12.00 Teatime and Claudia (r) 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets 12.30 Never Too Early, Never Too Late. Chris Kelly and Diana Wallis continue their series examining every facet of education.
1.00 News at One 1.20 Thames news with Tina Jenkins.
1.30 Film: Raw Edge (1956) starring Yvonne de Carlo, Rory Calhoun and Rex Reason. Off beat Western drama about the wife of a ruthless rancher whose life is threatened by his men. An added complication is that the local rules state that the widow must marry the first person to claim her. Directed by John Sherwood 3.00 Take the High Road.
3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 Sons and Daughters.
4.00 Rainbow. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10 4.20 Wil Cwac Cwac. Adventures of a naughty duck 4.25 The Wind in the Willows. Toad opens his home to the public.
4.50 Illusions. Fergus Roy continues his series on the world of magic with an examination of the mysteries of practitioners from India and the Far East 5.15 Blockbusters.
5.45 News 6.00 The 6 O'Clock Show with Michael Aspel.
7.00 Airwolf. A young woman asks Hawke and Santini for help in her hunt for the war criminal who killed her Nazi-hunter father as he was about to penetrate the Nazi's Paraguayan lair (Oracle).
8.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Couples from Bristol and Manchester test their knowledge of public opinion and their luck at the turn of a card.
8.30 Hallelujah! Comedy series starring Thora Hird as Salvation Army Captain Emily Ridley (Oracle).
9.00 Eh Brian, It's a Whopper. Comedy drama series about a Midland coarse angling club. In this episode plans are afoot for an angling holiday in the country – but how many of the members will be able to afford to go? (Oracle).
10.00 News at Ten.
10.30 The London Programme. John Taylor investigates the long-term effects the picket line violence may have on London policemen who are seconded to picket line duty.
11.00 Darts. The opening matches in the Winmau World Masters. Eric Bristow aims to win for the fifth time while the ladies champion, Sonya Ralphs, hopes to retain her title.
12.00 Live from London. Rock Goddess in concert.
1.00 I Spy. Secret service spoof set in the Far East and starring Bill Cosby and Robert Culp (r).
1.55 Night Thoughts.

Michael Ontkean, Margot Kidder (Channel 4, 11.15pm)

CHOICE

● As grey, dense and tangled as an old man's beard, Ingmar Bergman's **AFTER THE REHEARSAL** (BBC2, 9.25pm) demands hard work from the viewer but repays the effort of attention. The film – shown at Cannes in 1983 but never released in Britain – has a single set – a stage, post-rehearsal – and is, in form, a triangle talk-piece for three actors and two juvenile walk-ons (the younger selves of two of the trio). Henrik Vogler, a director, sits alone, asleep, on stage. Enter, in turn, two actresses – one, young, obsessed with what she wants to be; one, old, obsessed with what she was. They talk. The tone flickers between Cowardly back-stage back-stabbing – "She's getting more and more like you", "Nasty, you mean" – and Ibsenite grim-reapery – "Pain in my leg. Death nibbling at me". Bergman rather presses the metaphor-long before the late allusion to *The Tempest*, we've got the message that the characters, such stuff as dreams are made on, are strutting and fretting their hour – but the actors, required by the script to discuss the illusion of acting, splendidly sustain that illusion.

● Film-makers John and Simon King treat wildlife like Tony Palmer treats composers: if the facts don't fit, invent them. **THREE IN THE WILD** (BBC2, 7.30pm) – depicting the life cycle of a fox, a buzzard and, now, a pony – adopts the tone and style of "snake in the grass" natural cinema verité but is, in truth (my word, not theirs) artifice posing as nature, a Disneyfied *Life on Earth*. This week and next, *Toran, The Dartmoor Pony*, a two-part tale, which bears all of the blemishes of a King film – Sibelius weeping on the soundtrack; a narrator with the smoothed-on warmth of a crematorium ansaphone, charting the seasons from Spring's "carpets of pink heather" to Winter's "blankets of snow" and a false, rigged climax – the laming of a pony.

● Reaching its third movement, Radio 3's musical comedy **BROOMHOUSE REACH** (7.00pm) continues to build – slickly and wittily – on the wishful thought of a dead composer, Mendl, returning to bite his prospective biographer, Liripet, revealing, among other things, that in "the desolation beyond death", *The Times* is taken but arrives a day late with the crossword completed.

Mark Lawson

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.
3.50 Film: Cabin in the Sky* (1943). An all-black musical starring Ethel Waters, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington and his Orchestra. Vincente Minnelli chose this musical, based on the Faust legend, as his introduction to direction.
5.25 News summary with subtitles.
5.30 Fred. Fred Dibnah ends his series discussing points raised by earlier programmes and by what he does best – toppling tall chimneys (r).
6.00 Micro Live. Lesley Judd and Chris Palmer play computer games from the oldest to the latest; Ian McNaught-Davies attempts to create a digital Christmas card; and talks to King Crimson percussionist, Bill Burford, about electronic drum kits; there is a report from New York on a computer system for making animated cartoons; and there are suggestions for Christmas presents for the computer buffs who have everything.
6.50 Choir of the Year 1984. Orwain Arwel Hughes introduces six choirs who are singing for three places in the semi-final of the competition organized and run by Sainsbury's. From St David's Hall, Cardiff.
7.30 Three in the Wild. Part one of a two-programme story of Toran, the Dartmoor Pony, born during a storm but safe under the protection of his father, the lead stallion – until the father has an accident.
8.00 Call My Bluff. Arthur Marshall, Rosemary Leach and Robert Powell challenge Frank Muir, Sara Green and Melvyn Bragg to a test of wordy wits.
8.30 Italians. A profile of Mauro Flamenghi, communist shop steward at Alfa Romeo's Milan factory during the week, viniculturist at week-ends.
9.00 M*A*S*H. A wounded lieutenant is brought to the 4077th, injured when risking his life to save his men. His father, a general, arrives to monitor his son's progress, thus making everybody nervous especially when the young man takes a turn for the worst.
9.25 Arena. The British premiere of Ingmar Bergman's new film After the Rehearsal, described by Bergman as a meditation on life in the theatre and of growing old. Starring Erland Josephson, Lena Olin and Ingrid Thule.
10.40 Newsnight.
11.25 Film: Hell is for Heroes* (1962) starring Steve McQueen, Bobby Darin and Fess Parker. Second World War drama about a platoon of United States soldiers pinned down in the Autumn of 1944 by the Germans near the Siegfried Line. Sergeant Pike has trouble with his own troops in the form of the embittered ex-sergeant Reese who has recently been demoted because of insubordination. Directed by Don Siegel. Ends at 1.00.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 Treasure Hunt. Carole and Paul Becker are in London feeding instructions to Anneka Rice in Singapore as they themselves are given clues to the treasure's whereabout by Kenneth Kendall (r).
3.30 The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. The seventh and final episode of the dramatization of the novel by Muriel Spark about a middle-aged spinster schoolmistress in Edinburgh.
4.30 Countdown. School cook Kath Cheetham from Doncaster challenges yesterday's winner of the anagrams and mental arithmetic competition.
5.00 The Addams Family*. Rumour has it that coded radio messages are being transmitted from the Addams house. Postman and part-time government agent, Briggs, is sent to investigate.
5.30 The Tube. This week's edition includes Paula Yates talking to Paul McCartney who explains his feelings towards John Lennon at the time of the Beatles break-up and at the time of Lennon's murder in New York. There is also an interview with Ian McCulloch of Echo and the Bunnymen and live performances from The Stranglers, Icicle Works and Lee 'Scratch' Perry.
7.00 Channel Four News.
7.30 Right to Reply. A selection of viewers' comments from the Video Box.
8.00 What the Papers Say. Max Hastings takes a critical look at how the Press had been handling the week's news.
8.15 A Week in Politics presented by Peter Jay. The programme includes a report on the privatization of buses and a debate on technology exports to Russia between Richard Perle of the United States Defence Department and Paddy Ashdown MP, Liberal spokesman on trade and industry.
9.00 Tell the Truth. Which of three people is not lying? The celebrity panel of Beverly Anderson, Libby Purves, Roger Royle and Willie Rushton try to find out.
9.30 Gardeners' Calendar presented by Hannah Gordon. Tasks for December include planting and pruning black and red currants, rasperries and gooseberries (r).
10.00 Newhart. American comedy series starring Bob Newhart.
10.30 Just Sex. Part five asks if sex is a commodity that can be bought and sold in ordinary sexual encounters as well as those with prostitutes and with pornography. This question is discussed between two groups of seven men and seven women.
11.15 Film: Willie and Phil (1980) starring Michael Ontkean, Ray Sharkey and Margot Kidder. The story of two men who try to model their lives on Truffaut's Jules and Jim. The film follows the course of an on-off *ménage a trois* over a period of ten years. Directed by Paul Mazursky.
1.20 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave † stereo on VHF.
5.55 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News summary. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. The castaway is the composer Miklos Rozsa (r).†
9.45 The Falconer's Tale. Michael Billings watches falconer Geoff Pearson and his hunting birds in action (r).
10.00 News; International Assignment. Lord Carrington is interviewed.
10.30 Morning Story: 'The Sunday Treat' by Alphonse Daudet. Read by David March.
10.45 Daily Service (NEM, page 62).†
11.00 News; Travel; Analysis. The sale of state-owned businesses. With Mary Goldring (r).
11.48 I Beg your Pardon? Animal noises, familiar and otherwise.
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer affairs.
12.27 Top of the Form. First semi-final. Moorhead High School, Accrington v King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny (r). 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour from Bristol. Carolyn Hartman on the problems of delivering breast milk to special care baby units.
3.00 News; Masters' India an 18-part serialisation of John Master's saga Book Three: the Lotus and the Wind (r).
4.00 News; My Kind of Folk. With Ashley Hutchings, of the Albion Band.
4.10 The Mind in Focus. A series exploring current thinking in psychology. 4: Intelligence. Peter Evans chairs a discussion.
4.40 Story Time: Laugh with Lardner (5) 'Mr and Mrs Fixit'. Read by Peter Marinker.
5.00 PM: News Magazine. 5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 The Six o'Clock News: Financial Report.
6.30 Going Places. Transport and travel magazine.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week. Margaret Howard's extracts from BBC television and radio programmes.
8.20 Stop Press. Nigel Rees reviews the week's newspapers.
8.45 Any Questions? from Dagenham, Essex. With Jack Straw MP, Jenny Kirkpatrick, Jeffrey Archer and Jill Knight MP.
9.30 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine. Includes comment on Coriolanus at the Olivier Theatre.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Mr Facey Romford's Hounds' by R. S. Surtees (10) 10.2 Weather.
10.30 The World Tonight: News.
11.00 Today in Parliament.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Week Ending. Satirical review.
12.00 News; Travel. 12.33am Shipping. VHF available in England & S Wales only) Radio 4 VHF is as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 11.00-12.00 For Schools: 11.00 Religious Education. 11.20 Web of Language. 11.40 Listening to Music (1). 1.55- 3.00pm For Schools: 1.55 Listening Corner. 2.00 Education Now Phone-in: 01-580 4411. 2.30 Books, Plays, Poems. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-12.00 Study on 4: 11.00 Going Ski-ing! 11.30 Por Aqui.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Starzer's Divertimento in C; Beethoven's O war' ich schon mit dir vereint (Fidelio); Jurinac (soprano); Schubert's Symphony No 6. † 8.00 News.
8.05 Concert (contd): Mozart's overture La clemenza di Tito; Schumann's Adagio and Allegro in A flat Op 70 (Holliger/Brendel); Brahms's Alto Rhapsody (Hodgson, contralto); Strauss's Symphonic Poem Don Juan. † 9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Haydn. Introduzione (Seven Last Words): Mass No 14 in B flat (with soloists Tokody, Takacs, Gulyas and Gregor).†
10.00 Homages to Rameau and Couperin: Piano recital by Anne Queffelec. Ravel's Prelude (Tombeau dde Couperin); Couperin's Le tic-toc choc, ou les maillotins; and other works; Rameau's Le Rappel des oiseaux, etc; Debussy's Reflects dans l'eau; Hommege a Rameau; Mouvement (Images, Book 1).†
10.40 Northern Sinfonia (Seaman conducting). Arriaga's overture The Happy Slaves; Strauss's Prelude and Dance Scene (Ariadne auf Naxos); Arnold's Larch Trees; Mozart's Symphony No 25.†
11.35 Peter Warlock Songs: Peter Savidge (baritone) with David Owen Norris (piano). Including Mr Belloc's Fancy; and The Cricketers of Hambledon.†
12.05 BBC Philharmonic in Belfast (conductor Downes) with Michael Roll (piano). Part one. Wagner's overture Rienzi; Schumann's Piano Concerto.† 1.00 News.
1.05 Concert: part two. Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite Scheherazade.†
2.00 Cello and Piano: Moray Welsh and Roger Vignoles play Fauré's Sonata in G minor Op 117; and Poulenc's Sonata.†
2.45 Reiner conducts Brahms: Chicago SO play the Symphony No 3.†
3.25 Harpsichord Music: Robert Wooley plays works by Byrd, Gibbons, Frescobaldi. †
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Worcester Cathedral. The organist: Hugh Davies: † 4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: David Hoult's selection of music.†
6.30 Music for Guitar: Wolfgang Lendle plays works by Rodrigo (Elogio de la guitarra) and Scarlatti (arr Lendle) Four Sonatas, Kk 208, 54, 146, and 1.†
7.00 Broomhouse Reach: The third of Colin McLaren's six "movements", with David de Keyser as the forgotten composer and Timothy Davies as his biographer.†
7.30 Lindsay String Quartet: part one. Haydn's Quartet in B minor Op33 No1; and Tippett's Quartet No2.†
8.15 Poetry Now: Ann Aris and Patrick Romer read Kevin Crossley-Holland's selection. Poets include Anna Adams and Rodney Pybus.
8.35 Lindsay String Quartet: part two. Beethoven's Quartet in C Op59 No 3 (Rasumovsky).
9.15 Heifetz and Beecham: The London Philharmonic Orchestra play Sibelius's Violin Concerto in D minor (mono).
9.45 Of Cadres and Kings: Sixth of John Keay's series about life in South-East Asia. Tonight: From Rice to Riches, a study of development policy in the region.
10.30 Schmitt and Strauss: BBC Singers perform Florent Schmitt's Hymne a l'été, and Strauss's Deutsche Motette.†
11.00 Ayres for the Theatre: Instrumental music for the Restoration stage. With the Parley of Instruments and Baroque Orchestra. †
11.40 Mozart: Netherlands Wind Ensemble play the Divertimento for three basset horns K 439b No 1.†
11.57 News. Until 12.00. VHF only: Open University. 12.00 midnight until 12.20am Technology: Values.

Radio 2

On medium wave. † also VHF stereo. 4.00am Colin Berry.† 5.30 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† including 8.31 Racing. 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 Steve Jones.† including 1.05 Sports Desk. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford† including 2.02, 3.02 Sports Desk. 3.30 Music all the Way.† 4.00 David Hamilton† including 4.02, 5.05 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn† including 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 8.00 Friday Night is Music Night from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London.† 9.15 The Organist Entertains. Nigel Ogden with music, news and views.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket. 10.30 Nights at the Paris Olympia. 11.00 Stuart Hall. Music and conversation (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Peter Dickson presents Nightride.† 3.00 Big Band Special.† 3.30-4.00 String Sound.†

Radio 1

On medium wave. † also VHF stereo. News on the half hour from 6.30 am until 9.30 pm and at 12 midnight. 6.00am Adnan John. 7.00 Mike Read. 12.00 pm Gary Davies including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.30 Mark Page. 4.30 Select-a-Disc with Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable with Richard Sinner. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 10.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show. VHF Radios 1 & 2 – 4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Juke Box Dury. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Incredible Flautists. 8.30 The Spirit Of Kitty Hawk. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Not So Much A Hobby. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 Cole Porter And His Music. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In The Meantime. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz For The Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 John Peel. 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Letterbox. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Manuel de Falla. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science In Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah And Company. 8.00 World News. 9.15 Music Now. 9.45 Nineteen Eighty-Four. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From The Weeklies. 11.30 Hollywood's Oscar Nights. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Recording Of The Week. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Outlook. 1.30 Cole Porter And His Music. 1.45 Letterbox. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People And Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just A Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 That's Trad. 5.45 The World Today.
All times in GMT

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548Hz/194m: VHF 95.8: BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC 1 WALES. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales Headlines. 4.30-4.50 Hartbeat (as BBC-1 4.50pm). 4.50-5.30 Crackerjack (as BBC-1 5.15pm). 5.30-5.35 Interval. 5.35-5.58 Wales Today. 6.30-7.05 The Good Life. 12.20am-12.25 News and weather. SCOTLAND. 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 6.30-7.00 Reporting Scotland. 7.00-7.35 Blankety Blank (as BBC-1 7.05pm). 7.35-8.05 Zoo 2000: 'Frozen Assets'. 12.20am-12.25 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND. 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. 6.30-6.55 Inside Ulster. 10.20-11.10 And the Desert Shall Rejoice . . . 11.10-12.45 Film: Pete 'n' Tillie (Walter Matthau and Carol Burnett). 12.45-12.50 News and weather. ENGLAND. 6.30pm-6.55 Regional news magazines.

S4C Starts: 1.00 pm Countdown. 1.30 Alice. 2.00 5 Lon Goch. 2.15 Interval. 3.00 Year's Ahead. 3.45 Book Four. 4.15 Scotland's Story. 4.45 Hanner Awr Fwy. 5.30 The Tube. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Rosalind a Myrddin. 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm. 8.30 Y Byd Yn Ei Le. 9.15 Fairly Secret Army. 9.45 Tell the Truth. 10.15 Film: Grasshopper (Jacqueline Bisset). 12.00 Newhart. 12.25 am Soap. 12.55 Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 10.50am Cartoons. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Film: Four Sided Triangle. 3.00-3.30 That's My Dog. 6.00-7.00 Northern Life. 10.32-11.00 Comedians. 12.00 Last Outlaw. 1.00am Three's Company. Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

SCOTTISH As London except: 10.50 am James Michener. 11.45-12.00 Harlem Globetrotters. 1.20 pm News. 1.30 We'll Meet Again. 2.30 Farmhouse Kitchen. 3.00 Three Little Words. 3.30-4.00 Bounder. 6.00 News and Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Funny You Should Say That! 10.30-11.00 Ways and Means. 12.00 Late Call. 12.05 am Portrait of a Legend. 12.35 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 10.50 am Cartoon. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm News. 1.30 Film: Attack on the Iron Coast (Lloyd Bridges). 3.00-3.30 That's My Dog. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30-11.00 Crossfire. 12.00 News, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.50 am Cartoon. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.30 Film: Beachcomber (Donald Sinden). 3.00-3.30 That's My Dog. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 10.30 Cross Question. 11.10 Darts. 12.00 Film: Crowhaven Farm. Occult thriller. 1.25 am Jimmy Mamou Sings. Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 10.50 am Cartoon. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm Granada Reports. 1.30 Just Our Luck. 2.00 Adventurer. 2.30 Glass Box. 3.00 That's My Dog. 3.25 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 6.00 News. 6.05-7.00 Weekend. 10.30-11.00 Open Night. 12.00 Film: Quatermass Experiment. 1.30 am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 10.55 am Boomsville: 11.05 Once Upon a Time . . . Man. 11.30-12.00 A Land, A Man, A God. 1.20 News. 1.30 Film: Faces in the Dark (John Gregson).* 3.00-3.30 That's My Dog. 6.00-7.00 News. 10.30-11.00 Benson. 12.00 Film: Hot Rod. 1.45 am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 10.50 am-11.00 Cartoon. 12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm Lunchtime. 1.30 Film: SOS Pacific (Richard Attenborough). 3.00 That's My Dog. 3.30-4.00 Protectors. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.20 Sportscast. 6.45-7.00 Advice with Anne Hailes. 10.30 Witness. 10.35-11.00 Benson. 12.00 News. Closedown.

TVS As London except: 10.50am Cartoon 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street 1.20pm News 1.32 Jemima Shore Investigates 2.35 Three Little Words 3.00 Afternoon Club 3.27-4.00 Young Doctors 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Keep it in the Family 10.30-11.00 Shelley 12.00 Elvis Costello 12.30am Company, Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 10.50 am Cartoon. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm News. 1.30 Film: Beyond the Curtain (Richard Green). 3.00 That's My Dog. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road. 10.30-11.00 Ten Thirty. 12.00 News. Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 10.50am Cartoon 11.00-12.00 Harlem Globetrotters meet Snow White 1.20pm News 1.30 Film: Submarine X-1 3.00-4.00 Hart to Hart 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm 6.00 Channel Report 6.30 Crossroads 6.55-7.00 What's on Where 10.34-11.00 In Camera 12.00 Closedown.

TSW As London except: 10.50am Cartoon 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street 1.20pm News 1.30 Film: Submarine X-1 (James Caan) 3.00-4.00 Hart to Hart 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm 6.00 Today South West 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead 10.35-11.00 Trucking 12.00 Benson 12.25am Postscript, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 10.50am Groovie Ghoulies. 11.15-12.00 Glory of the Garden. 1.20pm News. 1.30 Heat Wave (Ben Murphy). 2.55 Star Ways. 3.00-3.30 That's My Dog. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30-7.00 Diff'rent Strokes. 10.30-11.00 Shelley. 12.00 Rock of the Seventies. 12.30am Closedown.

HTV As London except: 10.50am Cartoon 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street 1.20pm News 1.30 Film: Girl Who Couldn't Quite* (Elizabeth Henson) 3.00-3.30 Moviemakers 6.00 News 6.30-7.00 Sidestep 10.30 Exporter of the Year 11.15 Darts 12.00 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV except: 6.00pm-7.00 Wales at Six 10.30 Showbizz 11.00-12.00 Darts.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

also on page 28

THE TIMES ★★★★★★ First Published 1785

TUC backs strikes in support of miners

Continued from page 1

take actions that will bring the NCB back to the negotiating table in order to settle the dispute in the coal industry; to support all possible measures designed to enable the NUM to continue with its functions; that urgent and detailed discussions will take place between the TUC and the NUM and their respective advisers as to the manner in which the above matters shall be implemented, it being acknowledged that the most important factor is to achieve a negotiated settlement.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, read out a three paragraph statement after yesterday's talks adding: "We are seeking to get a negotiated settlement. We understand the urgency. It is not just Christmas – it is the future of the coal industry and the pits."

The TUC's legal advice ironically gives the go-ahead for strikes in support of the miners on the grounds that so long as they are held to be in support of the NUM's industrial objectives then they will not attract actions for contempt in the High Court.

But the TUC openly acknowledges that such stoppages would still lay any union and group of workers open to litigation under the Government's labour laws that forbid secondary strikes.

Further meetings are likely early next week.

Negligence case filed against Union Carbide

Continued from page 1

The chairman of Union Carbide, Mr Warren Anderson, who has flown from the United States, remained in Bombay yesterday, and has not yet made any attempt to visit the factory.

As hundreds of vultures hovered over the bloated carcases of thousands of goats, buffaloes and cows in the streets of Bhopal yesterday, a house to house search of the town and neighbouring villages revealed that the figure of dead had reached 2,000.

In Bombay, the chairman of the Indian subsidiary, Mr Keshub Mahindra, said yesterday that every effort would be made to help the victims.

Lethal chemicals, page 5



Frederick the Fifth, the Elector Palatine (left), who was married to Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia (right). Both portraits are by Gerrit van Honthorst.

Queen of Bohemia's final adieu

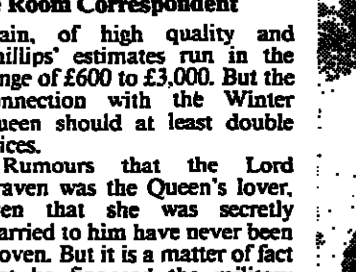
By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Phillips, the London auctioneers, have failed to notice that the collection of royal portraits they are selling next week once belonged to Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia, the elder sister of our own King Charles I.

It is not the whole of her collection, but it is the last of the group of pictures which after her death passed to her faithful cavalier and protector William, Lord Craven. They have been consigned for sale by the administrators of the estate of the seventh Lord Craven who committed suicide last year.

There are 84 Craven pictures for sale, including eighteenth and nineteenth century works – some notable sporting pictures – which have nothing to do with the Queen.

But 18 of the seventeenth century portraits depict her children, her parents, or her grandparents. And there is a painting of the finest hour of the Queen's sad life, a festive marine picture of her arrival with her new husband, the Elector Palatine, at Flushing after their marriage in England.



The portraits are not, in the main, of high quality and Phillips' estimates run in the range of £600 to £3,000. But the connection with the Winter Queen should at least double prices.

Rumours that the Lord Craven was the Queen's lover, even that she was secretly married to him have never been proven. But it is a matter of fact that he financed the military campaigns of her husband and sons, as welll as supporting Elizabeth and her 13 children in the Hague when Cromwell cut off her pension. After the restoration Charles II failed to offer her a residence in England and Craven put his own London house at her disposal. She lived there with Craven acting as her major-domo. Craven also owned Combe Abbey and Hampstead Marshall in Berkshire.

When she died in 1662 Elizabeth left her chattels to her second son, Prince Rupert who was devoted to Craven with whom he had campaigned in Germany. At his death in 1682 he left Craven his goods in trust for his mistreess Margaret Hughes and their daughter, Ruperta. Craven faithfully supported the two ladies and it is assumed that he bought Rupert's pictures from her.



William, Lord Craven, the Queen's devoted cavalier. Attributed to the studio of Sir Anthony Van Dyck.

The collection was passed down the Craven family. Its dispersal began in 1961 after the death of Cornelia, Countess of Craven, who bequeathed one group of portraits to the royal family and another to the National Portrait Gallery.

After the death of the sixth Earl in 1965, another group were ceded in lieu of estate duty and went to the National Trust to hang at Ashdown Park, a hunting box built by Craven for the Queen. In 1968 there was a further auction at Sotheby's.

The paintings to be sold at Phillips in two picture sales, on December 11 and 18, are the last of the portraits left in the family, according to Lady Craven.

The seventh Earl's settled estate and his title passed to his younger brother Simon last year after he shot himself at the age of 26. However, his personal fortune passed to his son Tommy by Miss Anne Nicholson. Tommy was born in 1981 and registered as the Earl's son. After a blood test, the Cravens have accepted his parentage. The proceeds of the picture sale will go to the boy though the administrators who will look after the fortune on his behalf have not yet been named.

Fight goes on, says man in Jaws shirt

Continued from page 1

typing paper could not shift several tonnes of earth, tree and rock.

Had they not heard that within the last few hours their leader had agreed to dismantle all roadblocks, as 17 of their number in jail for three weeks had been released as a peace gesture? No, they had heard no such order.

The Melanesians, who were here first, wanted back their land that had been progressively stolen from them by the French over more than a century. When the nickel deposits of Thio, the third largest in the world, were first worked commercially in the 1960s, did not the French rush out many more settlers to ensure they were not outnumbered?

Would, I asked, the French special commissioner achieve an acceptable peace settlement? No, because he was a Frenchman and would demand a referendum which the French majority would inevitably win.

So what then? The struggle would continue, but Jaws and his men were not quite sure how. More guns, and perhaps outside aid.

Did they consider themselves Marxists? Jaws shrugged: their only politics were the independence of Kanaky, as they have rechristened New Caledonia.

Jaws reamined civil but the others, including he of the machete, were growing bored, and bored men with big, rusty knives might start looking for things to cut. Like tyres, or ears.

Jaws took my road map and pointed the way back. All the way down to the next bend I could seem them in the mirror, staring me out of sight. Down on the beach, the tourists snoozed their carefree afternoon away.

Auction ring plea fails

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, has turned down a request by Mr Andrew Faulds, Labour MP for Warley East, to refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions the circumstances surrounding an auction in Gloucestershire last summer.

The matter was the subject of an article in *The Times* last Monday after allegations that dealers had formed a ring at a sale at Hawksbury in July.

Frank Johnson at the Savoy

Choice gathering of Parliamentarians

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, was yesterday named Parliamentarian of the Year. FRANK JOHNSON, erstwhile observer of the parliamentary scene, went along to see the politicians at play.

A luncheon was held at the Savoy Hotel, London yesterday at which the first Parliamentarian of the Year Awards were announced.

The awards were made jointly by *The Spectator*, the intoxicating weekly paper, and Highland Park, the influential, elitist Scotch Whisky. They are to be made every year from now until Parliament closes through lack of readers or *The Spectator* is overthrown. Even then it is likely that the tradition will be kept going by the firm which makes Highland Park.

Certainly, Highland Park kept several of the luncheon guests going well into the afternoon yesterday. That could explain why some of the above sentences from the present writer could be read just as well the other way around. But, in a departure from the procedure often adopted when their author used to report Parliament in this space, this account is being composed after the event described. One did one's best to remain an independent observer, but Highland Park succeeded in influencing the reporter's mind.

A year ago I renounced reporting Parliamentarians for ever. That renunciation did not include reporting Parliamentarians at luncheon. That is Parliament at its best. Familiar faces beamed around the tables but how was the list of MP guests compiled, I wondered?

A decision had been taken not to include all 600 MPs, probably for security reasons (600 MPs, fuelled by Highland Park, would pose a considerable security threat to the Savoy).

This annual luncheon, however, will undoubtedly become a fashionable event. Over the years MPs who are invited will incur the envy of those who are not many a Labour member will be deselected on the strength of receiving an invitation.

The choice was probably made according to how each MP, accurately or inaccurately, is generally regarded, something which happens to them remarkably soon after they are elected. So Mr George Walden, Conservative, was there for being regarded as brilliant; Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Conservative, for being regarded as nice; Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour, for being regarded as nasty.

Mr Peter Snape, Labour, was probably there because he once did a real job as a railwayman. Several others were there because they had never done a job in their lives.

The government whip, Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, was there because, his family having founded and English school in Spain, he could speak Spanish and could therefore help out if the Savoy ran out of waiters.

The ceremony was the same as that for Miss World, except that the shy participants were interviewed by Lord Grimmond *after* they won. A junior minister, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, came first as winner of the award for Man to Watch. Mr Charles Moore, *the Spectator's* editor, sought to clear up the confusion as to whether this meant he needed to be watched by M15. After all, his department *is* the Foreign Office.

As with Miss World, it emerged that Mr Rifkind liked to travel, which is just as well since they are always sending him to places such as Poland.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour, was Trouble maker of the Year, but was unable to be present because he was away causing trouble. Mr Nicholas Budgen, Conservative, was Back bencher of the Year; Dr John Cunningham, Labour, was Debater of the Year, in spite of the fact that his subject is local government.

And so to Parliamentarian of the Year. It was Dr David Owen. His ambition was to work as a Prime Minister. He reminded us that Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour, not present, had already awarded him Pompous Sod, but had had to withdraw the Sod.

Dr Owen launched into a serious speech about constitutional reform. Whereupon Mr Eric Heffer, Labour, shouted: "He withdraw the wrong word," and thus immediately became Heckler of the Year.

Mr Willie Hamilton, Labour, was presumably representing the Queen. Mr John Stokes, Conservative, for being a gentleman. Others for being bounders. Mr Peter Tapsell, Conservative, for being brave; others for being cowards.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, visits the Bowles Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Eridge Green, East Sussex, 2.25.

The Princess of Wales visits Bristol, arriving at the Council House, 5.15, and later attends a carol service in Bristol Cathedral as Patron of British Red Cross Youth, 6.

Princess Anne attends the Saints and Sinners luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, 12.30.

The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, attends the Higher and Honorary Degrees Ceremony of the University of Surrey at Guildford Cathedral, 4.10.

New exhibitions

The birth of the Ark Royal by Edward Chambré Hardman, Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Colliergate, York; Tues to Sat 10 to 6; closed from 23 Dec to 1 Jan, open 10 and 17 Dec. (ends Jan 12).

Photographs by Annie Liebovitz, Stills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh, Tues to Sat 12.30 to 6. (ends Jan 19).

Music

Recital by Caryl Thomas (harp) with Leicester Grammar School Chamber Choir, St Mary de Castro, Leicester, 8.

Recital by Margaret Fingerhut, Colfoc School Hall, Bridport, Dorset, 7.45.

Recital by Scottish Early Music Consort, Henry Wood Hall, SNO Centre, Claremont Street, Glasgow, 8.

Concert by BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Lancaster University, 7.30.

Concert by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Mitchell Hall, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Concert by Liverpool Music Society Orchestra, Mountford Hall, Students Union, Liverpool, 7.30.

Concert by Coventry Youth Orchestra, Coventry Cathedral, 7.

Concert by the London Symphony Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Concert by Peterborough String Orchestra, Ely Maltings, Cambridgeshire, 7.

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Concert by London Baroque and Conrad Steinmann, Christ's Hospital Arts Centre, Horsham, Sussex, 7.45.

Talks, lectures

Australia: Outback and Back Again, by Avril Gibb, Greenock Philosophical Society, Watt Hall, Kelly St, Greenock, 7.30.

Daumier and the Caricature Tradition, by Martin Baillie, Oban Art Society, Park Hotel, Oban, 7.30.

A Shakespeare Scrapbook, by Tom Martin, Roseangle Gallery, Roseangle, Dundee, 7.30.

Etruscan Art, by K Hazell, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 11.

Statchat: 30th talk by David Clayton, 1.10; non-commutative unique factorisation domains, seminar with A W Chatters, 3.15; Organs of Communication, by Percy Turnbull, 5.30; the Old Sraight Track: Ley Lines and Archaeology, by T Williamson, 7; all at Leicester University.

General

Craft Fayre, the Guildhall, Royal Parade, Plymouth, Devon 9.30 to 4.30.

War and Peace, by Keele University Drama Society, Walter Moberly Hall University of Keele, Staffs, 7.30.

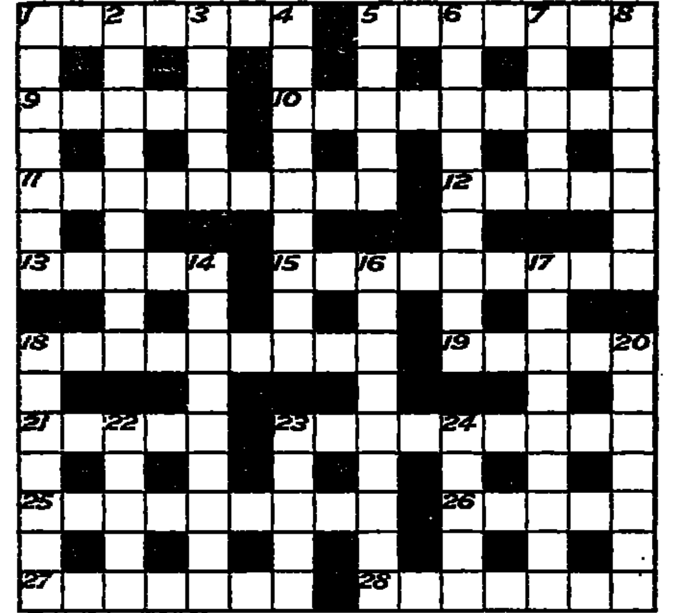
Bath Stage Club "Music Hall Tavern" at the Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath, 7.45.

Alternative comedy with Oscar McLennan, Third Eye Centre, Studio Theatre, 350 Sauciehall St, Glasgow, 7.30.

Anniversaries

Births: Gian Lorenzo Bernini, sculptor, Naples, 1598; Stuart Davis, abstract painter, Philadelphia, 1894. Deaths: Cicero, executed, Caieta, Italy, 43BC; Sir Peter Lely, portrait painter, London, 1680; Meindert Hobbema, landscape painter, Amsterdam, 1709; William Bligh, captain of HMS Bounty, London, 1817; John Flaxman, sculptor, London, 1826; Edward Irving, leader of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1834; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1962.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,605



ACROSS

1 The Mock Turtle's first study – swimming (7).
5 The Master of the Buckhounds is in contempt twice (4-3).
9 Old character in disgrace, having lost temper initially (5).
10 One over the eight is Tom's ration (4,5).
11 The hyena could be circling softly – make a dash for it (9).
12 Emperor reduced to making relish (5).
13 Doggy bag, no longer posh and nothing in it (5).
15 In a street crowd we get frightened (9).
18 Under canvas half-sister becomes demanding (9).
19 One is far away to have this the day before (5).
21 Second to none country bandmaster (5).
23 Main street Arab, a prickly sort (3-6).
25 Chance of success for fighter's comeback is improving (7,2).
26 Sprinter takes one run at either end (5).
27 Where to shelter from bugle call (7).
28 Biblical hair remover (7).

DOWN

1 The fruit in Queen Sophie's salad (4-3).
2 They are used to knock the tops off shells (3-6).
3 Idol, most typical when spitting (5).
4 What a gaudy pub for Geneva bishop's residence! (3-6).
5 Write to the church for Peter's contribution (5).
6 Bound to be able to dig anyway (9).
7 Name to occur to viscount (5).
8 Cushion has covering for feet (7).
14 Thank you from him, and from me, for the chemical (9).
16 Snared – net could be blamed (9).
17 A thin clue, perhaps, for unscrupulous (9).
18 No one can be so narrow-minded, said Donne (7).
20 Crook ran home with candlestick (7).
22 German diver prohibited to come up about nothing (1-4).
23 A great many appear in this spectacle (5).
24 "The sly shade of a — Dean" (Brooke) (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,604

DEADHEAT SCHOOL
CHEER ADORATION
DEPRESSED LUNGE
NIGGARD RATTAN
ASIDES TREACLE
LIMBO ARROWHEAD
INTHEMAIN SLIME
THEBAR TOWPATHS

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Food prices

Apart from filberts (hazelnuts), supplies and quality of nuts are good and prices reasonable. The Italian crop is said to be 60 per cent down on last year because of bad weather in the early growing season which stunted the swelling of the nuts. Larger brazils are scarce but small and medium sized are plentiful at 60p-75p a pound. Semi-soft, shelled, almonds from Spain are a little dearer this year. American walnuts, at 85p-95p a pound, are larger and thinner shelled than those from China at (60-75p) which accounts for the difference in price. Top-quality mixed nuts are probably the best value. Algerian and Tunisian glove-packed dates sell at 75p-95p and Spanish honeypacked figs at 50-60p, both in 8-oz packs. Fresh cranberries, available from November to early January, not only an essential accompaniment to roast turkey but also useful in puddings, cost 65p-70p for a 6-oz punnet and 80p-90p for a 12oz bag. Avocados, at 28p-40p are still good value. Oranges have improved in quality and range from 6p-20p each. Satsumas are 20-32p a pound and small Corsican clementines 25-30p. Comice and Conference pears, which range from 25p-40p and small and medium pineapples, 60p-95p, are all good buys.

Supplies of fish for the weekend should be better as the weather has improved for the fishermen. Lodge cod fillets average £1.49, haddock fillets £1.57 and plaice £1.70. Huss, at £1.30, boned herring 70p a pound, and mackerel 62p, are among the best buys. Marks & Spencer have many varieties of fish in batter or breadcrumbs on special offer this week. Bejam have frozen peeled prawns at £2.69 a pound, breaded scampi at £1.99 and Bellarena smoked salmon at £3.49 for a 14-oz pack.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the £10,000 Premium Bond draw for December are: 11AL 678697 (the winner lives in Hampshire); 23AS 758697 (Berwickshire); DK 703011 (Lancashire); DP 619540 (Leeds); 1JL 593837 (Hampshire).

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on tourism.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.47	1.40
Austria Sch	26.95	25.65
Belgium Fr	77.60	73.60
Canada $	1.645	1.575
Denmark Kr	13.85	13.15
Finland Mkk	8.02	7.62
France Fr	11.72	11.17
Germany DM	3.83	3.65
Greece Dr	178.00	163.00
Hong Kong $	9.80	9.29
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.18
Italy Lira	2350.00	2250.00
Japan Yen	310.00	294.00
Netherlands Gld	4.325	4.125
Norway Kr	11.12	10.62
Portugal Esc	212.00	200.00
South Africa Rd	2.34	2.16
Spain Pta	211.00	201.00
Sweden Kr	10.90	10.40
Switzerland Fr	3.16	3.01
USA $	1.25	1.20
Yugoslavia Dnr	325.00	305.00

Retail Price Index: 357.7.
London: The FT index closed down 6.5 at 908.4.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:
1 (-) Give My Regards to Broad Street
2 (1) 1984
3 (-) A Private Function
4 (2) The Woman in Red
5 (3) The Killing Fields
6 (4) The Natural
7 (6) Tightrope
8 (7) Full Moon in Paris
9 (8) Company of Wolves
10 (-) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

The top five in the provinces:
1. 1984
2. The Woman in Red
3. Party Animal
4. Bachelor Party
5. Conan The Destroyer

Compiled by Screen International.

Top video rentals

1 (1) The Empire Strikes Back
2 (2) Sudden Impact
3 (7) Educating Rita
4 (3) Terms of Endearment
5 (4) Greystoke: the Legend of Tarzan
6 (6) Uncommon Valour
7 (5) Tootsie
8 (33) The Osterman Weekend
9 (12) Fawlty Towers: the Psychiatrist
10 (9) Fawlty Towers: the Germans

Roads

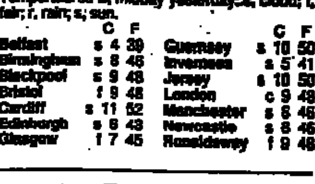
Midlands: M1 Two lanes available for traffic heading S at junction 15, Northampton between 8am and 6pm and again between 10pm and 7am delays anticipated.

Wales and West: A5: One lane traffic W of Corwen, Clwyd; temporary lights. M14: One lane westbound between junctions 17 and 13, Cirencester to Bath, Wiltshire/Avon. A48: Cardiff-Chepstow temporary lights 24 hrs on Pwllmeyric Hill, Chepstow, Gwent.

North: A38: Wigan Road closed Westoughton, Bolton, from junction with Southfield Drive. A616: Traffic control from Deepcar, through Stockbridge to Langsett, Yorkshire delays. Contraflow on southbound carriageway of A1, junction with A684, NW of Thirsk.

Scotland: Bridge damage, lights 24hrs. A702 at Carlops. A94 Single-line traffic S Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire. A836: Single-lane traffic N of Bonar Bridge. Temporary signals 24 hrs a day.

Information supplied by AA



Portfolio – how to play.
Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.
Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.
If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expended from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

Troughs of low pressure will cross north western districts.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, SW England, East Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Dry, sunny intervals; wind SW fresh; max temp 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).

W Midlands, S, N Wales, NW, central N England: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind S to SW strong, locally gale; max temp 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Cloudy, a little rain or drizzle at times; wind S strong to gale; max temp 8C to 10C (46F to 50F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times; wind S, strong to gale; max temp 7C to 9C (45F to 48F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, becoming drier during evening; wind S, strong to gale, locally severe; max temp 8C to 10C (46F to 50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain in N, showers turning wintry over higher ground on Saturday. Mostly dry with sunny intervals in S. Temperatures near normal with night frost in places.

SEA PASSAGES: South North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW fresh, locally strong, sea moderate, becoming rough. St George's Channel: Wind SW strong or gale, sea rough or very rough. Irish Sea: Wind SW gale, occasionally severe gale, sea very rough.

Sun rises: 7.52 am. Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 6.48 am. Moon rises: 3.08 pm
Full Moon: tomorrow.

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.23 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.33 am
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 8.00 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.42 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.38 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	s	4	39	Guernsey	s	10	50
Birmingham	s	8	46	Inverness	s	5	41
Blackpool	s	9	48	Jersey	s	10	50
Bristol	f	9	48	London	c	9	48
Cardiff	s	11	52	Manchester	s	8	46
Edinburgh	s	6	43	Newcastle	s	8	46
Glasgow	f	7	45	Ronaldsway	f	9	48

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 81 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.35in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 2.7hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1028.3 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Newquay, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Guernsey Airport, 1.14in; highest sunshine: Newquay, 7.1hr.

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NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



NOON TODAY

b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.52	6.7	1.03	6.6
Aberdeen	12.14	3.9	12.43	4.0
Avonmouth	6.15	12.2	6.36	12.14
Belfast	10.16	3.3	10.26	3.2
Cardiff	6.00	11.3	6.11	11.6
Devonport	4.49	5.3	5.05	5.2
Dover	10.12	6.3	10.40	6.3
Falmouth	4.19	5.1	4.35	5.0
Glasgow			12.06	4.7
Harwich	10.55	3.8	11.21	3.8
Holyhead	9.29	5.2	9.42	5.3
Hull	6.20	6.9	6.44	6.9
Ilfracombe	5.01	8.5	5.19	8.6
Leith	1.25	5.1	1.57	5.2
Liverpool	10.21	8.7	10.37	8.9
Lowestoft	8.25	2.3	9.04	2.4
Margate	11.06	4.5	11.36	4.6
Milford Haven	5.20	6.4	5.37	6.5
Newquay	4.12	6.5	4.28	6.5
Oban	4.50	3.7	5.09	3.9
Penzance	3.49	5.4	4.04	5.3
Portland	5.54	2.1	6.14	2.0
Portsmouth	10.34	4.5	10.54	4.4
Shoreham	10.16	5.8	10.36	5.7
Southampton	10.06	4.4	10.28	4.3
Swansea	5.23	8.9	5.43	8.9
Tees	2.36	5.0	3.08	5.2
Walton-on-Naze	10.49	3.9	11.12	4.0

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	5.3	–	7	45	Sunny	Guernsey	5.3	.36	11	52	Sunny pm
Bridlington	4.9	–	8	46	Sunny	Scilly Isles	6.6	.02	11	52	Sunny
Cromer	1.5	.31	7	45	Cloudy am	Newquay	7.1	.04	13	55	Sunny
Lowestoft	0.6	.46	7	45	Bright am	Ilfracombe	5.2	.04	11	52	Sunny
Clacton	1.7	.44	8	46	Bright pm	Tenby	–	–	–	–	–
Margate	–	.13	8	46	Bright pm	Southport	6.5	.09	9	48	Sunny
Folkestone	1.5	.44	8	46	Bright pm	Morecambe	4.3	.03	9	48	Bright
Hastings	–	.26	9	48	Sunny pm	Douglas	2.8	.04	9	48	Sunny
Eastbourne	2.2	.35	9	48	Rain am	London (Ctr)	2.7	.35	11	52	Sunny pm
Brighton	–	.65	8	46	Sunny pm	B'ham (Airpt)	5.3	.03	9	48	Sunny
Worthing	3.1	.70	9	48	Sunny pm	Bristol (Ctr)	5.3	.08	11	52	Sunny
Littlehampton	–	–	–	–	–	Cardiff (Ctr)	6.7	.08	10	50	Sunny
Bognor R	3.5	.76	10	50	Sunny pm	Anglesey	4.7	.01	10	50	Shwrs pm
Southsea	4.0	.49	11	52	Sunny pm	B'pool (Airpt)	6.4	–	10	50	Shwrs am
Shanklin	–	–	–	–	–	Manchester	5.7	–	8	46	Sunny
Bournemouth	4.3	.27	10	50	Sunny pm	Nottingham	5.2	–	9	48	Sunny
Poole	5.5	.26	11	52	Sunny	Newcastle	5.8	–	9	48	Sunny
Swanage	5.0	.28	11	52	Sunny	Carlisle	3.3	.11	8	46	Hail pm
Weymouth	5.4	.29	11	52	Sunny	Eskdalemuir	1.0	.06	5	41	Cloudy
Exmouth	6.0	.13	11	52	Sunny	Prestwick	3.9	.02	7	45	Bright
Torquay	5.8	.10	11	52	Sunny	Glasgow	3.4	.10	7	45	Bright
Falmouth	6.8	.06	11	52	Sunny	Tiree	1.3	.23	8	46	Hail
Penzance	6.5	–	11	52	Sunny	Stornoway	3.1	.04	8	46	Sunny am

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	17	63	Cologne	s	7	45	Majorca	s	17	63	Rome	s	16	61
Akrotiri	s	15	59	Copenhgn	c	4	39	Malaga	c	17	63	Salzburg	s	2	36
Alexandria	c	18	64	Corfu	s	14	57	Malta	f	17	63	Sao Paulo*	f	30	86
Algiers	s	17	63	Dublin	s	7	45	Melbourne	c	15	59	S Francisco*	r	11	52
Amsterdam	d	6	43	Dubrovnik	f	14	57	Mexico C*	s	18	64	Santiago*	f	28	82
Athens	f	12	54	Faro	c	14	57	Miami*	s	27	81	Seoul	s	3	37
Bahrain	s	25	77	Florence	s	11	52	Milan	c	7	45	Singapore	f	31	88
Barbados*	f	28	82	Frankfurt	c	2	36	Montreal*	s	–3	27	Stockholm	c	4	39
Barcelona	s	14	57	Funchal	f	17	63	Moscow	s	–2	28	Strasbourg	c	3	37
Beirut				Geneva	c	5	41	Munich	f	1	34	Sydney	s	23	73
Belgrade	f	–1	30	Gibraltar	c	16	61	Nairobi				Tangier	f	19	66
Berlin	f	2	36	Helsinki	s	0	32	Naples	s	16	61	Tel Aviv	s	15	59
Bermuda*	f	22	72	Hong Kong	s	20	68	New Delhi	s	22	72	Tenerife	c	20	68
Biarritz	c	14	57	Innsbruck	s	8	46	New York*	s	4	39	Tokyo	c	11	52
Boulogne	c	7	45	Istanbul	s	10	50	Nice	s	16	61	Toronto*	f	–2	28
Bordeaux	f	13	55	Jeddah				Oslo	r	6	43	Tunis	f	17	63
Brussels	f	7	45	Jo'burg				Paris	c	9	48	Valencia	c	14	57
Budapest	c	–1	30	Karachi	s	26	79	Peking	s	3	37	Vancouver*	s	0	32
Buen Aires*	s	30	91	Las Palmas	c	20	68	Perth	s	23	73	Venice	s	7	45
Cairo	s	18	64	Lisbon	r	12	54	Prague	c	–1	30	Vienna	c	–2	28
Cape Tn	s	21	70	Locarno	s	7	45	Reykjavik	sl	1	34	Warsaw	c	1	34
C'blanca	f	19	66	L Angeles*	f	15	59	Rhodes	f	16	61	Washington*	f	17	63
Chicago*	s	–3	27	Luxembg	f	2	36	Riyadh	s	28	82	Wellington*	f	17	63
Ch'church*	s	21	70	Madrid	s	13	55	Rio de Jan	s	28	82	Zurich	c	2	36

* denotes Wednesday's figures are latest available